



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025:
Fund resilience, not disasters

Acknowledgement of Country

AIDR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you all join us from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this event.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters across Australia.

Welcome

John Richardson

Executive Director

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)

Housekeeping

- You will remain muted and your camera will not be activated for the duration of today's event.
- Today's event will be recorded and made available after the event.
- Please enter questions for our speakers in the Q&A function, not the chat box.
- Please use the chat box to share any thoughts or reflections during the presentation
- Please be respectful to each other when posting your comments or questions.

Today's Facilitator

Dr Mayeda Rashid

Manager Capability Development and Engagement

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)

Speaker Introductions

Natalie Egleton

Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Paul Box

Senior Principal Research Consultant, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Jimmy Scott

General Manager, Resilience and Recovery, Queensland Reconstruction Authority

What difference does upfront investment in resilience make for communities?

Natalie Egleton

Chief Executive Officer

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

Fund resilience, not disasters

Natalie Egleton, CEO

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



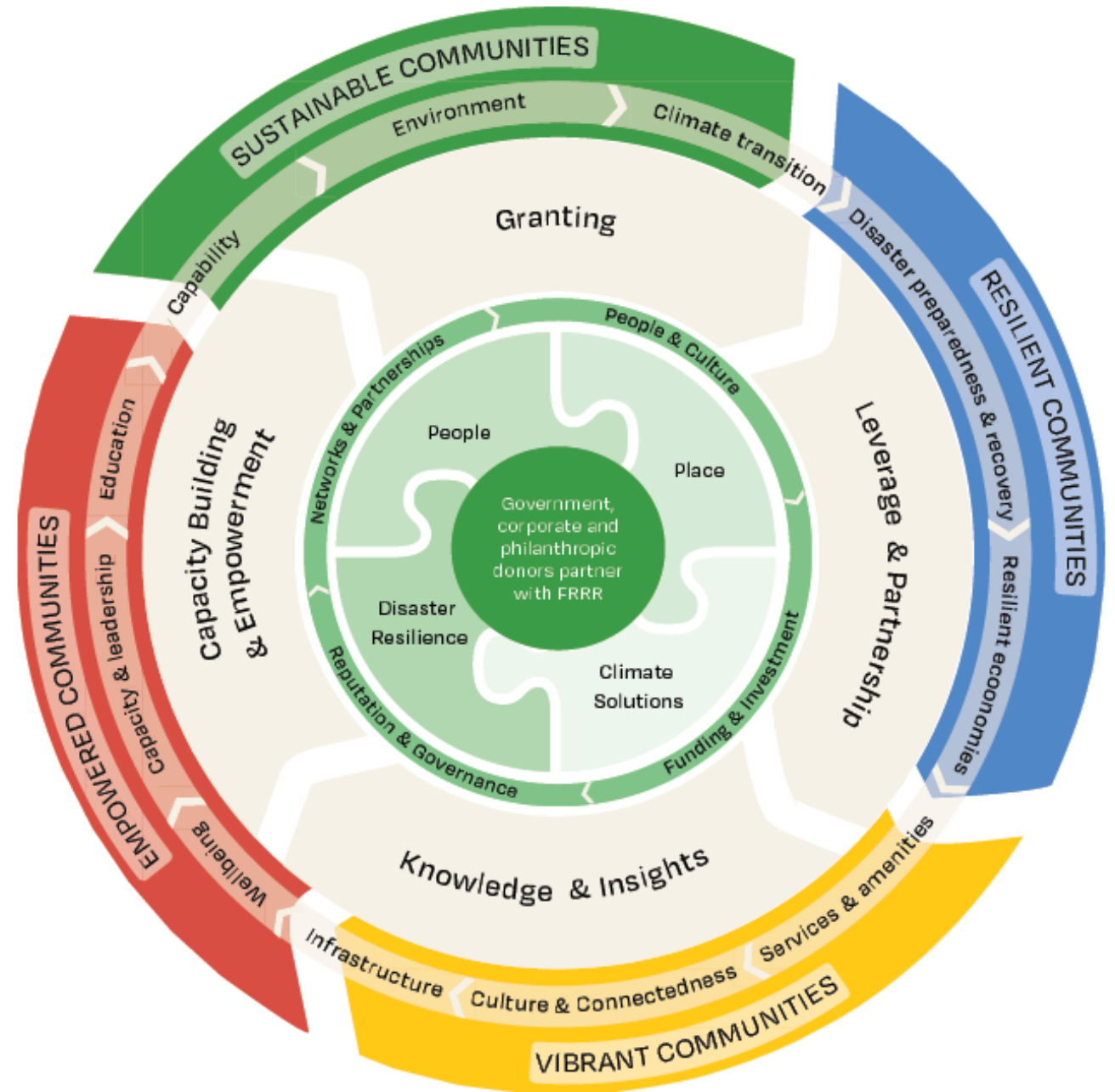


FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

The only national Foundation specifically focussed on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural and communities by aligning government, philanthropic and community purposes and investments.

Delivered more than \$200 million to over 15,000 projects since 2000.



Funding Disaster Resilience: Gaps and constraints

Disproportionate impacts in remote, rural & regional areas

- **Resilience investment** needed to **mitigate compounding effects**
- **Higher costs** for service delivery and risk-reduction activities mean **funds don't go as far** or deliver as much, to the people most in need
- Need **right sized and paced investment**

Funding design

- Community-led and based risk reduction work requires **short-term action, momentum, ongoing resourcing** and continuous **community engagement**
- Significant **gap in engagement**, especially for **small and remote areas**
- Both **small grants and multi-year flexible funding** needed

Capacity & scale in remote, rural & regional areas = funding inequity

- Small organisations and local councils often **lack time, skills, or staff to apply/manage funds**
- **High value, matched/co-funding structures often exclude** small grassroots groups and small local councils
- **Simplified and less competitive funding approach needed**



- **Embed disaster resilience outcomes** in all types of funding – disaster, climate, infrastructure, education, health...
 - Reduce silos
 - Increase resource efficiency
 - Reduce burden on local communities and smaller NFPs
 - Grow systemic resilience to all shocks

Investing upfront in resilience delivers benefits

Milpara Community House Inc Helping Hands - Strengthening Community Co-ordination & Collaboration Korumburra, VIC

- Community more prepared and resilient, with a co-designed Community Resilience Plan for emergencies and a broader Community Plan

Preparedness/adaptation enabled:

- Community-based emergency plans informed by community
- Inclusive networks
- Increased community resilience

Co-benefits

- Relationships developed with emergency services and council
- Increased disaster knowledge & awareness in community

Risks avoided

- Disconnect between official responders and community
- Siloing of information and activity in future disasters



Limestone Coast Landscape Board Walking the Seasons Limestone Coast SA

- Drought preparedness by teaching the area's six Indigenous seasons and how they can indicate climate/seasonal trends.
- First Nations-led educational walks for each season – almost 600 attendees.

Preparedness/adaptation enabled:

- Educ'n on local flora/fauna to present each season & how indicates drought
- Creates preparedness culture

Co-benefits

- Upskill young First Nations people through mentoring, building capacity
- Recent migrants gained First Nations insights

Risks avoided

- Indicators of drought taught, enabled preparation



Cherbourg Historical Precinct Group Inc, Protecting Cultural Assets: The Ration Shed Museum Cherbourg, Qld

- Delivering critical infrastructure improvements to Ration Shed Museum

Preparedness/adaptation enabled

- Cyclone-rated window coverings
- Temperature control rooms to preserve artifacts
- Fireproof storage and mobile storage for artifact safe relocation

Co-benefits

- Local leadership enabled
- Economic benefits to community

Risks avoided

- Physical loss of First Nations cultural memory and assets
- Psychological harm from cultural loss
- Fragmentation of community identity



Regional Development Australia Tropical North, Creative Recovery Preparedness Training Cairns, Qld

- Residential program for arts leaders, independent artists, and disaster support personnel in far north Queensland to strengthen community resilience

Preparedness/adaptation enabled

- Understanding psycho-social impact of disaster
- Trauma-informed practice education
- Grab bags to increase personal preparedness


Co-benefits

- Multi-dimensional discussions
- Enabled creativity healing tool
- Intro'd cultural wellbeing indicators

Risks avoided

- Reduced chance of isolation for people affected by disasters by increased capability to support community recovery





Thank you and keep in touch

info@frrr.org.au

frrr.org.au

LI: FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional
Renewal)



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

What does the evidence tell us about the impacts of funding resilience?

Paul Box

Senior Principal Research Consultant

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)



Making the case for investment in resilience

Insights from the Enabling Resilience Investment initiative

Paul Box & Russ Wise

International Disaster Risk Reduction Day
AIDR Webinar - 13-10-25





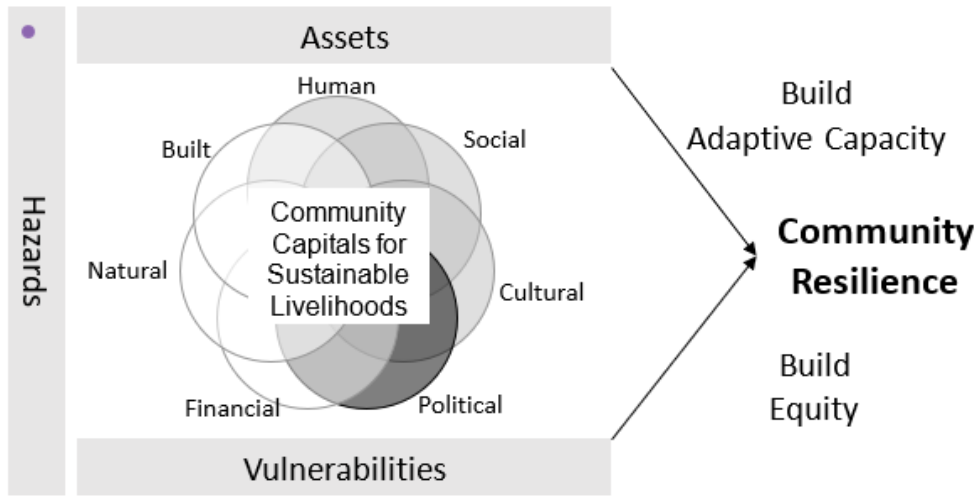
Overview

- Resilience
- The funding environment
- Making the case for investment
- Case study Bega Valley Shire Council

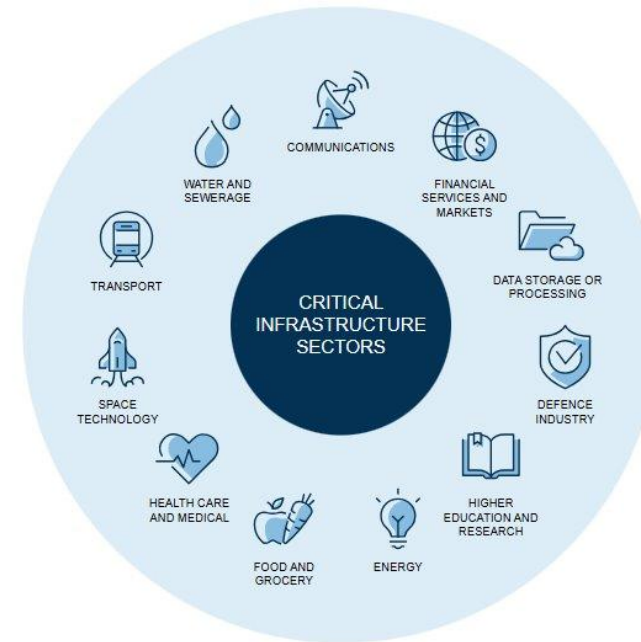
Resilience

‘The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner...’ UNDRR

Community resilience



Infrastructure resilience



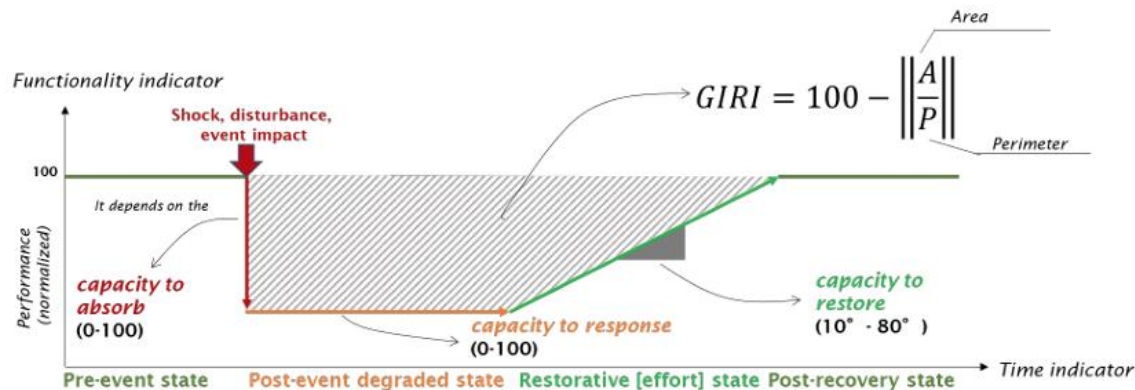
Cafer et al (2019) [A Community Resilience Framework](#)

Henshel et al 2023 [Rethinking critical infrastructure in the United States from a community-based perspective](#)

Resilience assessment

Community resilience

Infrastructure resilience

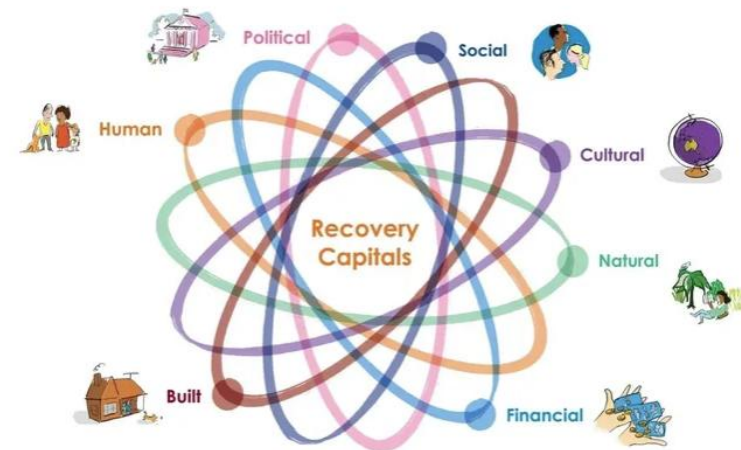
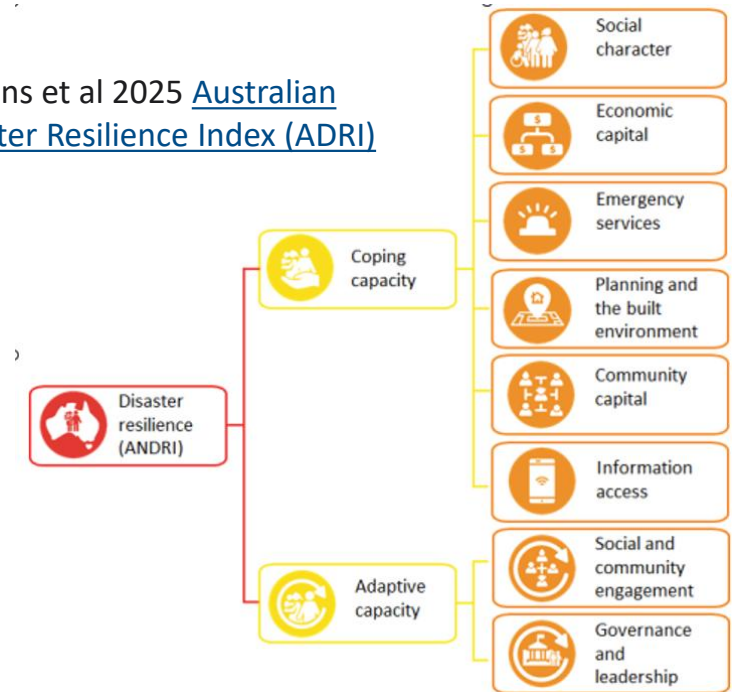


[Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index - GIRI](https://giri.unepgrid.ch/)

Cardona et al. (2023). INGENIAR-CDRI-Background-Report-GIRI-Index

<https://giri.unepgrid.ch/>

Parsons et al 2025 [Australian Disaster Resilience Index \(ADRI\)](#)


















<https://recoverycapitals.org.au/>






Resilience investment is a catalyst for growth

\$1 in adaptation & resilience generates more than \$10 in benefits over ten years

[World Resources Institute \(WRI\) study 2025](#)

Table 19 Summary of findings from economic analysis of adaptation investments

Case study	Typology	Dollar benefits per dollar of cost	Key public benefits ¹
City of Darwin – Urban Cooling	Physical and technological measures	\$1.1 - \$3.1 benefit per \$1 cost	  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council – Flood Management	Economic and financial measures	\$0.8 - \$1.3 benefit per \$1 cost	  
City of Hobart - Bushfire Resilience	Knowledge-based, behavioural and cultural change measures	\$1.3 - \$2.9 benefit per \$1 cost	   
Moyne Shire Council – Coastal Hazard Management	Regulatory measures	\$1.2 - \$2.9 benefit per \$1 cost	  
Buloke Shire Council – Urban Cooling	Physical and technological measures	\$1.0 - \$1.6 benefit per \$1 cost	 

1. Notes:  health and wellbeing  ecosystem services  recreation and amenity  avoided property damage  avoided emergency response costs

ALGA 2025 *Adapting Together* report

Councils' climate-resilient investments are estimated to provide up to \$4.7 billion in avoided costs and benefits to communities by 2030.

Funding environment

Disaster
management

Disaster Recovery – Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)

Resilience/risk reduction

- Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)
- Philanthropic – *Northern Rivers Community Foundation*, Minderoo Foundation, NRMA Help Fund and Suncorp

Disaster risk
reduction

Sector-specific resilience investment

Strengthening telecoms against natural disasters - STAND

Risk informed
sustainable
development

Funding programs for (regional) development

Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

Capital investment in infrastructure

Risk informed?

“We have hundreds of billions of dollars in interest to invest in infrastructure.....
Our biggest difficulty is not capital. Our biggest difficulty is finding the appropriate investments.”

(BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, June 2021)

Funding environment issues

- Individual organisation have insufficient budgets
- Funding gap
- Fragmented environment

Need **\$3.5bn pa in 2050** to limit damage from climate-related natural hazards (APRA, 2020)

Cumulative **\$106 trillion in investment through 2040** to meet the need for new and updated infrastructure. (McKinsey 2025 [The Infrastructure Moment](#))

Collective responsibility for risk & resilience

‘risk and actions to address it is a shared, ongoing, and systemic challenge, not a burden to be handled piecemeal and incrementally by each stakeholder acting alone’

Brookings Institute 2025 - [Rethinking our assumptions and financing tools for community resilience in the face of growing climate loss and risk](#)

Combinations of:

- Treating hazard
- Hardening - asset or service
- Meet service needs in another way
- Coping in the absence of service
- Change the rules and regs



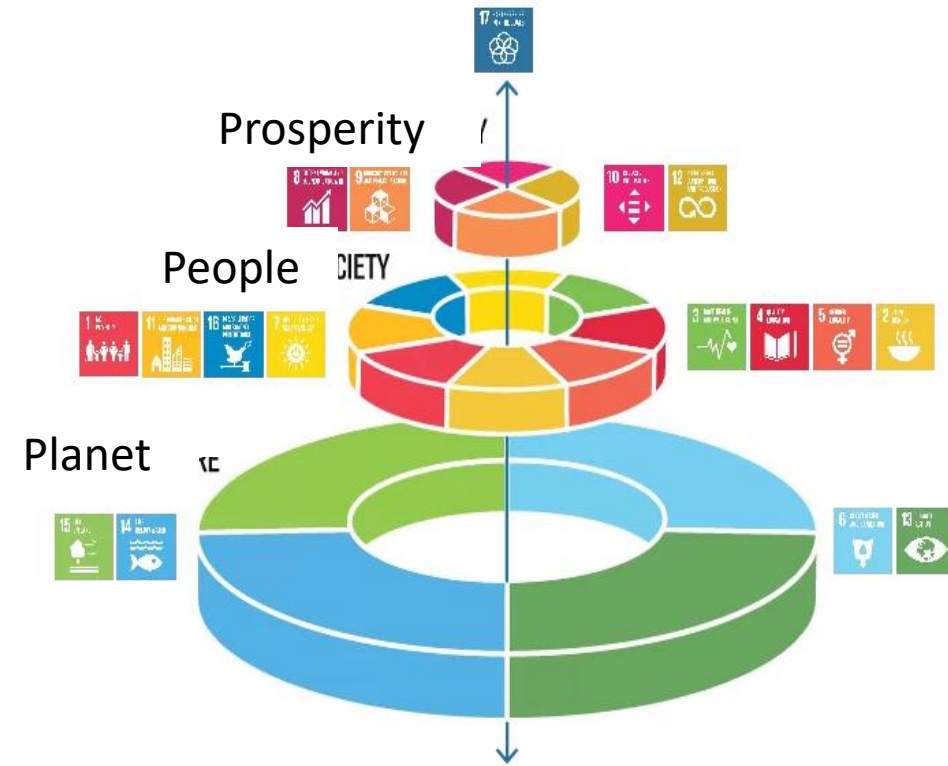
Challenges in making the case for investment

Complexity of *natural, social economic a technical system*

Uncertainty (under changing climate)

Intervention effectiveness

Costs and benefits unevenly distributed



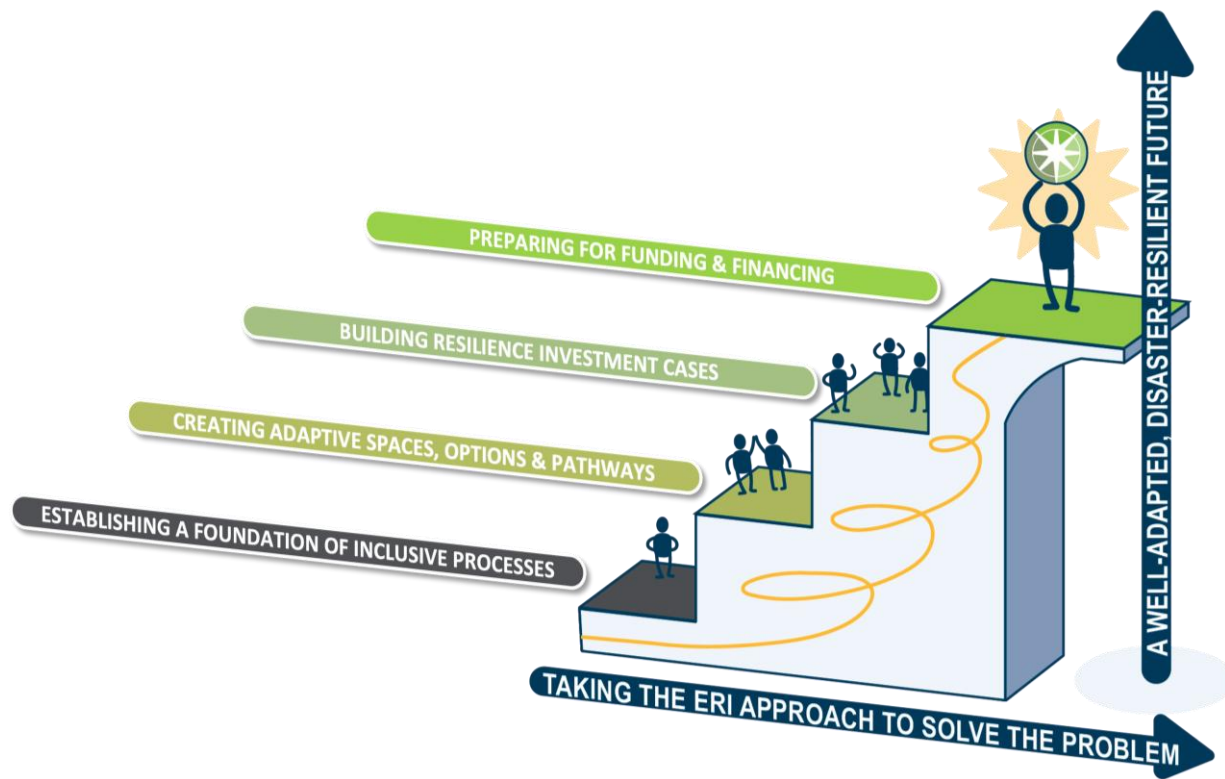
Wedding cake model

Source [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#).

Enabling Resilience Investment

from risk & opportunity to fundable action

Value driven, place and systems-based inclusive approaches to assessing and addressing risk and opportunity and developing fundable propositions



- Resilience investment logic - needs & benefits
- Triple dividend
 1. avoided losses
 2. economic benefits (regardless of disaster)
 3. additional social & environmental benefits
- Alignment to multi sources of funding

<https://research.csiro.au/enabling-resilience-investment/>

Bega Valley resilience service needs

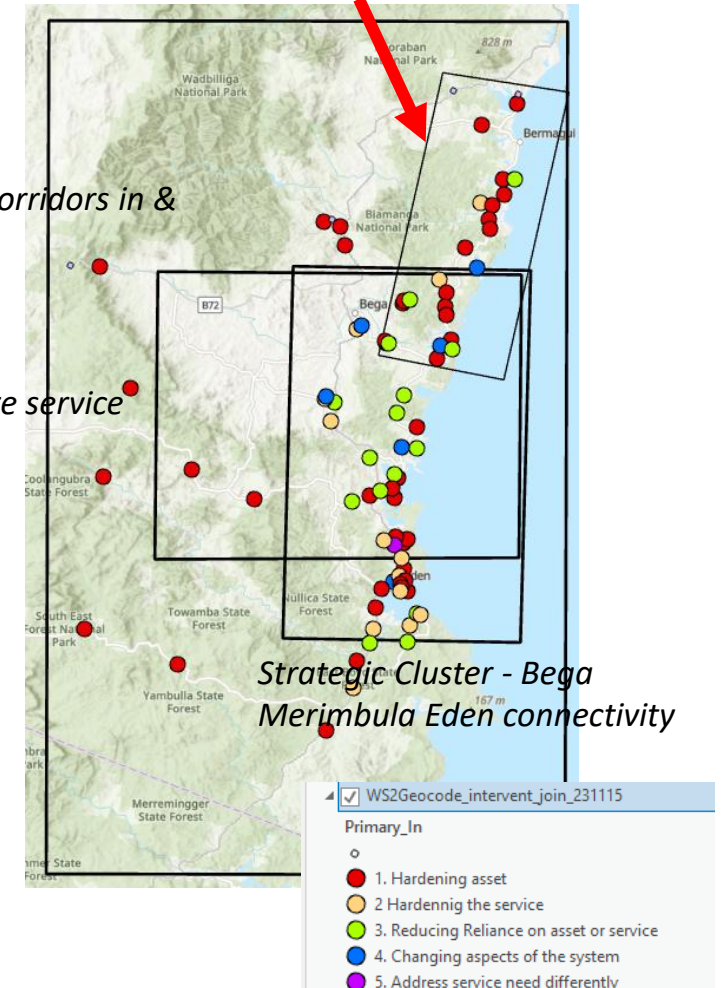
Road transport

- Services & functions **and service areas**
- Benefits and beneficiaries of those services
- Interventions to build resilience & combinations
- Intervention costs, effectiveness & feasibility

Resilient transport corridors in & out of Bega

Strategic centre service connectivity

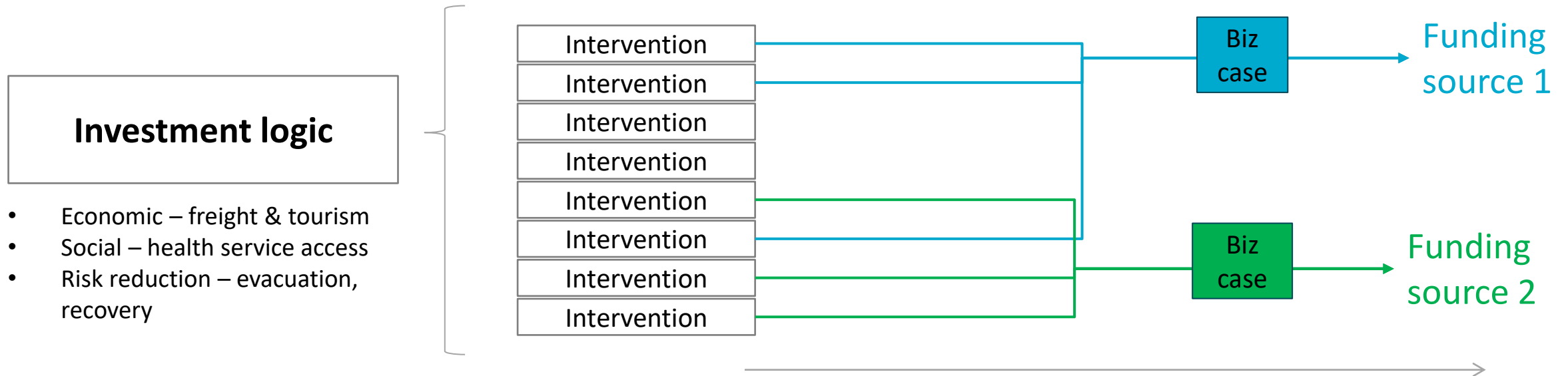
String of Sapphires



Intervention options and bundles

Resilience investment case

- Investment Logic - problem, its impacts, and benefits of addressing the problem
- Potential interventions broad cost and benefit quantification



<https://research.csiro.au/enabling-resilience-investment/case-studies/case-study-bega-valley/>

Edwards, 2025 - Radical transformation in local government: The pursuit of resilience through decision-making ADRC2025

Business case

- Bundling interventions aligned to funding objective(s)
- Detailed quantification of costs and benefit as part of business case development

Thank you

Paul Box

Senior Principal Research Consultant
CSIRO Environment
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Dr Russ Wise

Senior Principal Research Scientist
CSIRO Environment
Adjunct Professor, Swinburne University, Centre for
Urban Transition
russell.wise@csiro.au

Enabling Resilient Investment

<https://research.csiro.au/enabling-resilience-investment/>

How can we shift systems to “fund resilience, not disasters”?

Jimmy Scott

General Manager, Resilience and Recovery

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Image: Jundah, 28 March 2025

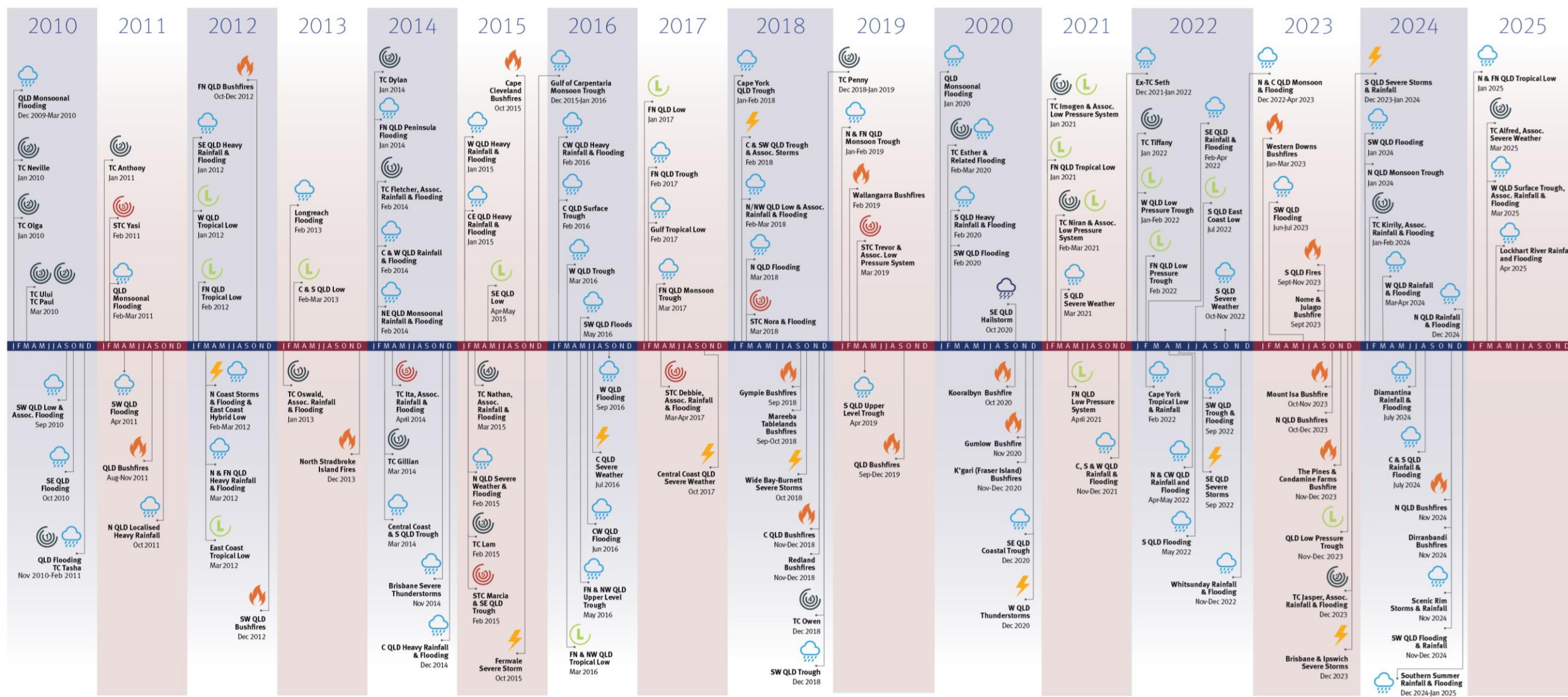


Jimmy Scott

General Manager, Resilience and Recovery
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

AIDR Webinar, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, 13 October 2025

Queensland's disaster timeline

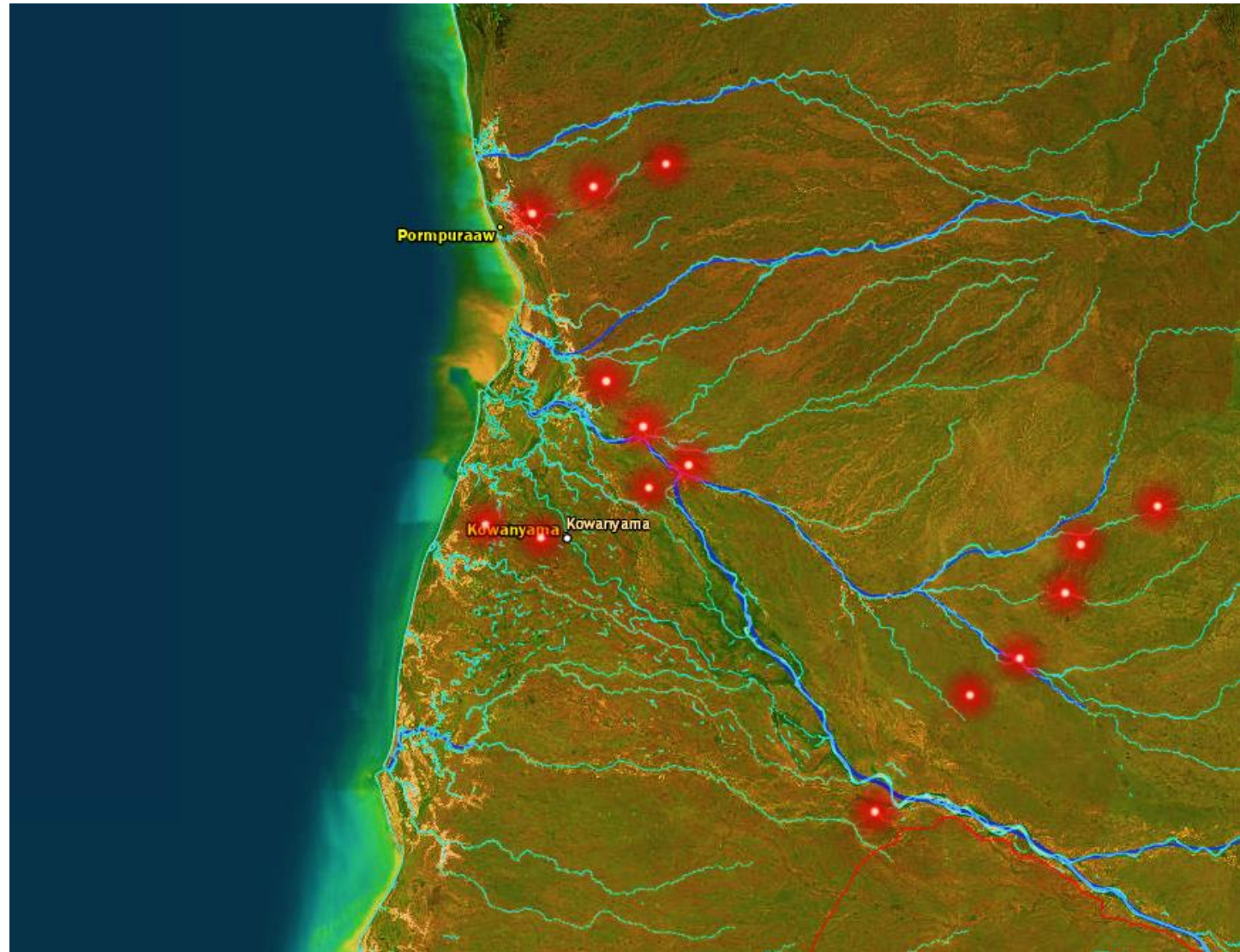


Understanding our risks

Repeat Events and Dollars Index (REDI)

Helping councils to understand risk

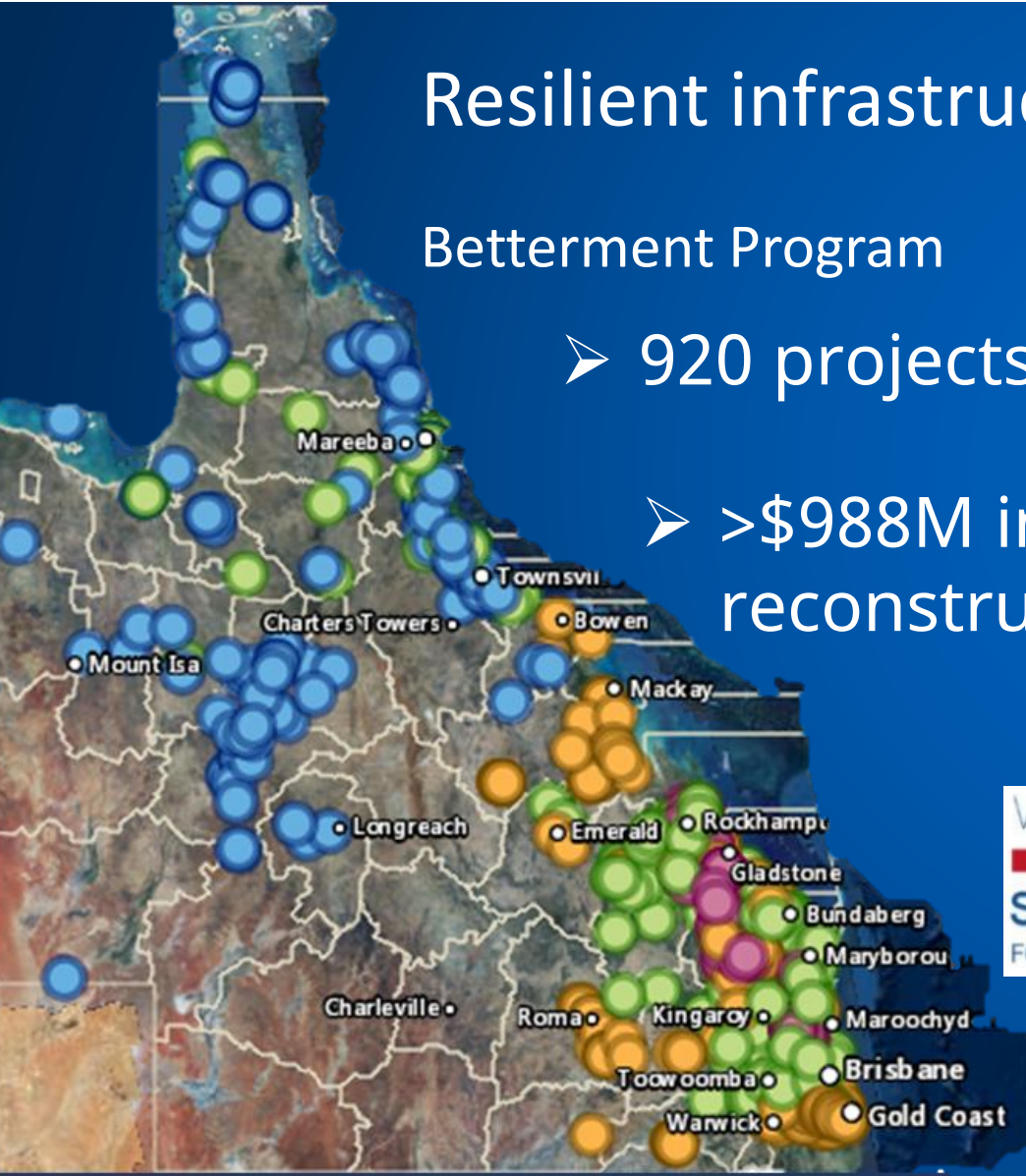
- interactive mapping application
- highlights 'hot spots' of our most frequent and costly damage sites.
- informs future planning decisions about investing in stronger, more resilient infrastructure



Resilient infrastructure

Betterment Program

- 920 projects since 2013
- >\$988M in avoided reconstruction costs



Queensland's Betterment Programs



Gayndah Mundubbera Road damage following Cyclone Oswald 2013

➤ **BEFORE** ➤

qra.qld.gov.au/betterment



Queensland
Government



Resilience valuation

SAVi tool to value the intangible benefits of infrastructure resilience

To address the challenge of capturing and valuing intangible benefits, QRA partnered with the International Institute for Sustainable Development to undertake a pilot project to customise their Sustainable Asset Valuation initiative Tool (aka the SAVi tool).



Images: 2025 flooding in Northern Queensland affected roads, schools, hospitals, businesses, transport and supply chains.

Case study: Thailand



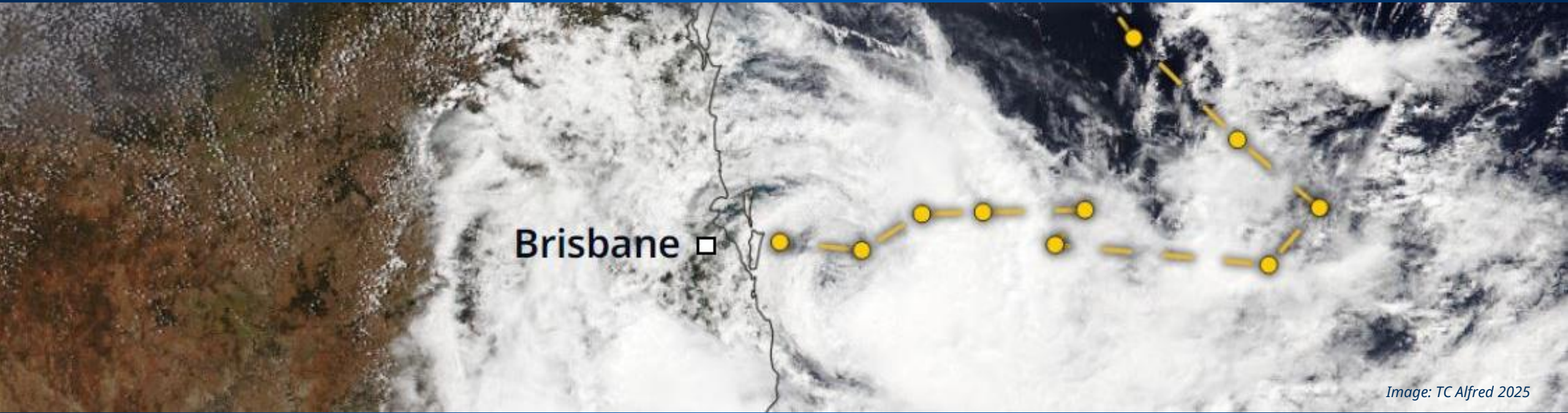


Image: TC Alfred 2025



www.qra.qld.gov.au

Q&A

Don't forget to put your questions in the Q&A function.

Event concludes

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

Next webinar:

Spotlight Series: *Do governments trust communities? How to build and maintain trust in the age of grievance and disinformation.*

Wednesday 28 October 2025,
1.00pm-2.00pm AEDT



Register now.



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