



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience 

SPOT LIGHT SERIES

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.

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.

What does this content mean for you?

How could you apply your learnings to your role?

One action you feel inspired to take.

Welcome

Katelyn Samson

Deputy Director, Resilience and Risk Reduction

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)

Speaker Introductions

Mia Cox

Senior Projects Officer

Sustain: the Australian Food Network

Dr Nick Rose

Co-founder and Executive Director

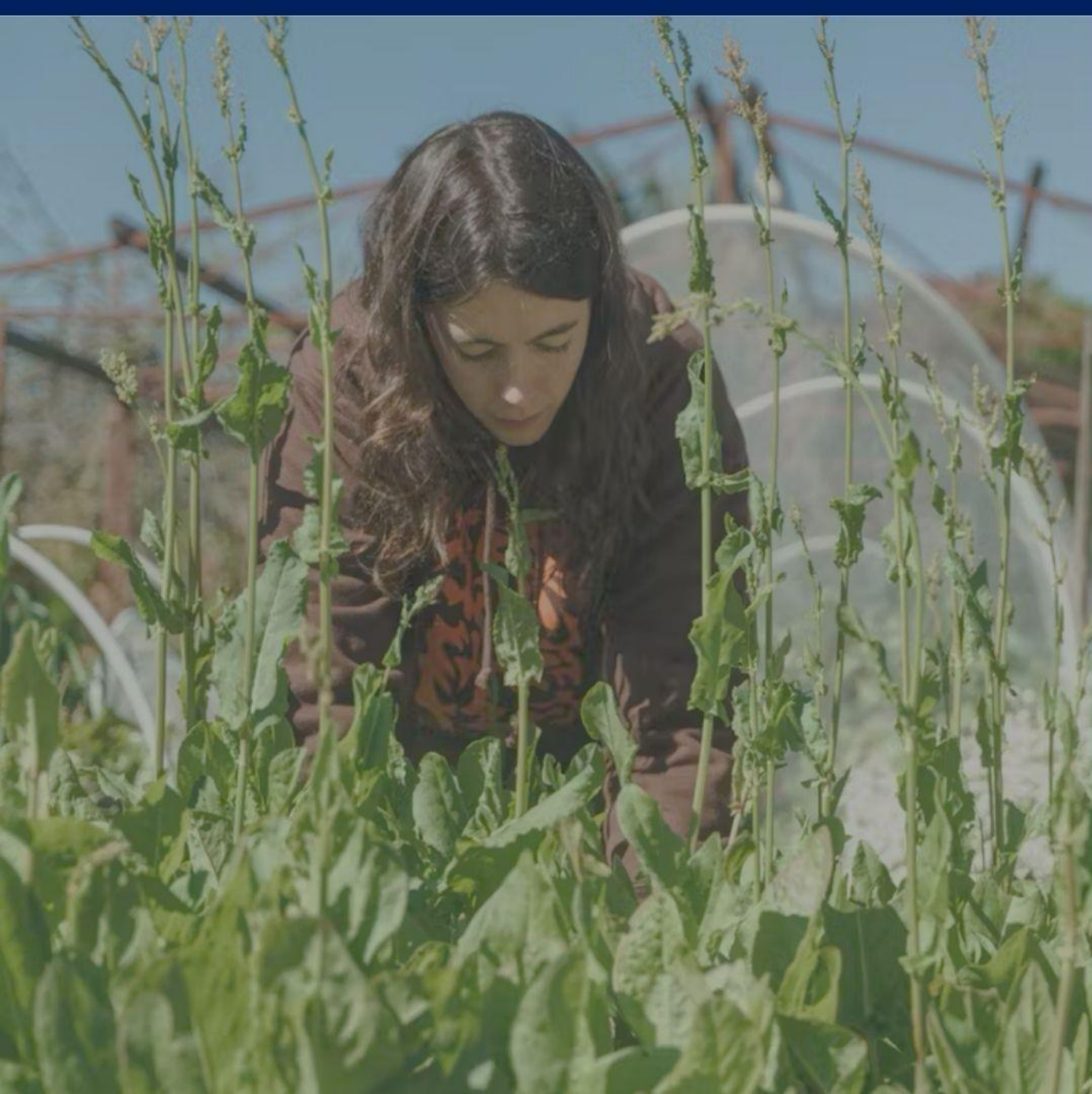
Sustain: the Australian Food Network

Food security and disaster risk reduction

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience, Spotlight
Series Webinar, Wednesday
24th June 2026

SUSTAIN
the Australian food network





Mia Cox

Senior Projects Officer



Dr Nick Rose

Co-founder + Executive Director



Acknowledgement of Country

Sustain acknowledges that we work on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation. We respectfully acknowledge the custodianship of their people, whose lands we are on today, recognising that they and their ancestors stewarded these lands and their diverse creatures sustainably for tens of thousands of years. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging.

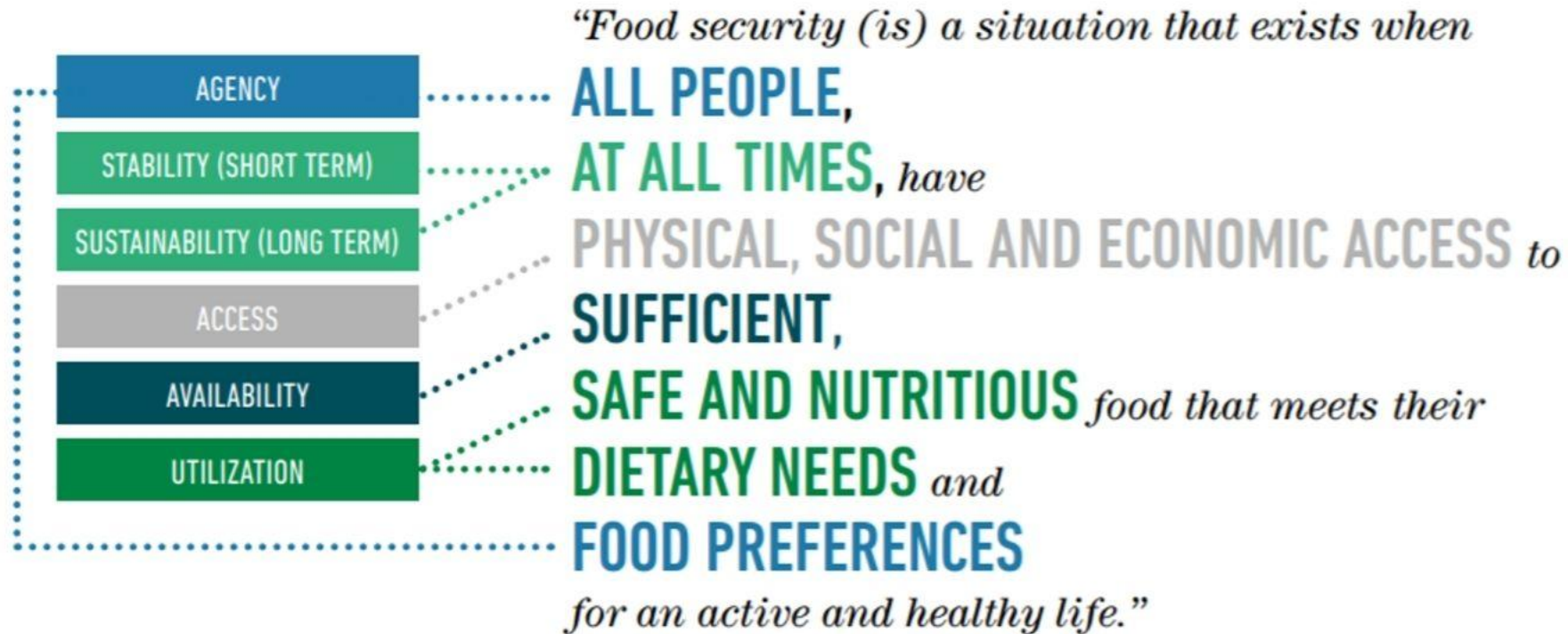
Agenda

1. What is food security? 6 dimensions
2. What is a food system?
3. What happens to food security during a disaster?
4. Disaster resilience + local supply networks
5. What does this tell us about the cracks and vulnerabilities our food system?
6. Making our food systems more resilient to shocks and stressors
7. Examples + opportunities
8. Some practical next steps
9. Ways to stay connected

Six dimensions of food security

FIGURE 1

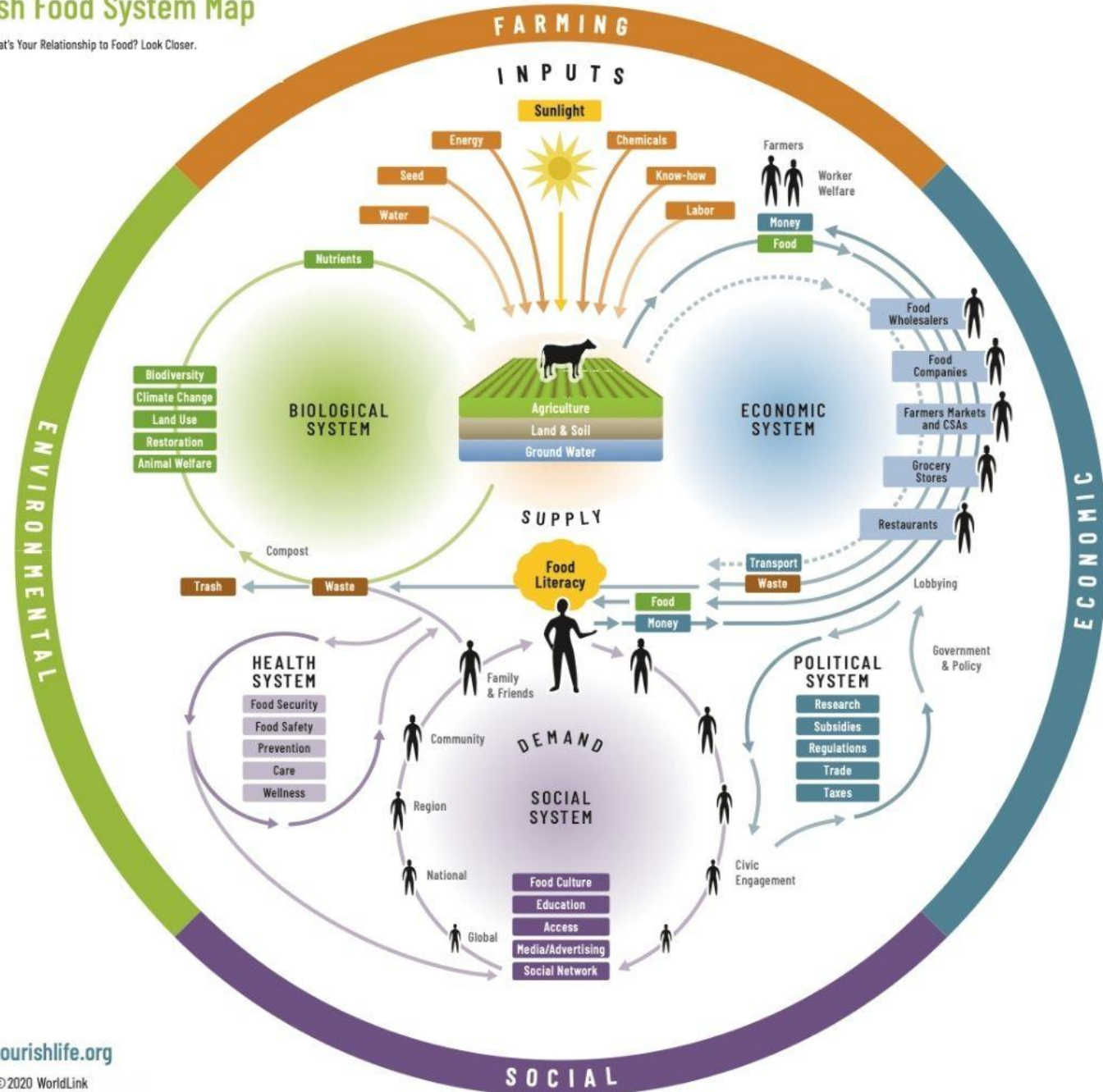
IDENTIFYING SIX DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY
IN ITS CURRENT DEFINITION



What is a food system?

Nourish Food System Map

What's Your Relationship to Food? Look Closer.



Scenarios

- Fuel supplies run low/out
- Food transport is cut off
- Floods, fires, heatwaves (disrupting food production, transport, retailing + waste)
- Increasing climate-related shocks on food production
- Pandemics
- Biosecurity threats to food production

**What happens to
food security
during a
disaster?**


[Home](#) > [Agriculture and Human Values](#) > [Article](#)

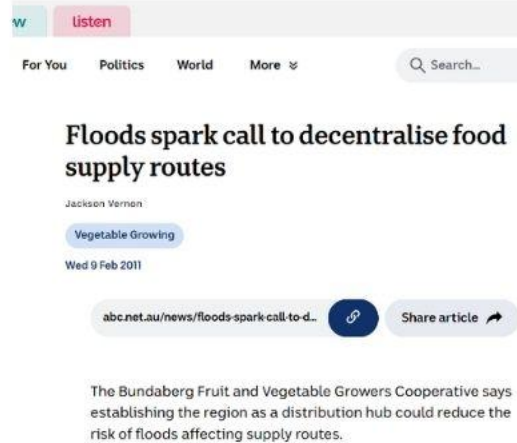
The resilience of long and short food chains: a case study of flooding in Queensland, Australia

Published: 07 April 2015

Volume 33, pages 45–60 (2016) [Cite this article](#)

 [Save article](#)

[Kiah Smith](#) , [Geoffrey Lawrence](#), [Amy MacMahon](#), [Jane Muller](#) & [Michelle Brady](#)



The screenshot shows a news article from ABC News. The title is "Floods spark call to decentralise food supply routes". The author is Jackson Vernon. The article is categorized under "Vegetable Growing" and was published on Wednesday, 9 February 2011. There is a "listen" button at the top, a search bar, and a "Share article" button. The article text begins with "The Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative says establishing the region as a distribution hub could reduce the risk of floods affecting supply routes."

- Supermarket-based (long) food chain delivery system experienced significant difficulties in supplying food to flood-affected towns.
- More localised (short) food supply chains—which relied upon supply from growers in peri-urban areas and community-based food initiatives—remained largely intact, and provided food at a time when the supermarkets were limited in their ability to respond to consumer demand.
- Conceptualising food chains in terms of key elements of resilience: scale, diversity, flexibility and cohesion.

Disaster resilience + local supply networks



- Shorter supply chains are stronger supply chains
- Communities move fast while government often moves slowly
- Everywhere is closed – that's why we wanted to open the farmers' market, because everyone's out of supplies.
- Supermarket shelves were completely empty [but] we had all this produce.
- It was more a case of community coming together, rather than it come from anywhere else.

Disaster resilience + local supply networks

What does this tell us about the cracks and vulnerabilities our food system?

The groceries that could rise 20 per cent in price, as farmers issue warning

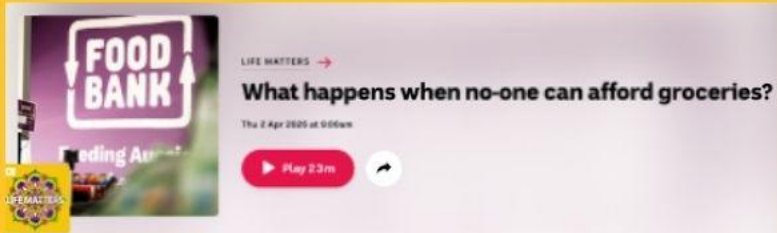
Australian farmers are warning Australians will be hit by food price increases due to ongoing diesel and fertiliser supply constraints.

Fuel and freight woes from Middle East conflict could end some carrot farms in WA, warns industry body

By Belinda Varischetti and Joanna Prendergast

ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt Vegetable Crops

Fri 20 Mar



Assumption	Reality
Food is a basic need which all people are entitled to.	30-35% of people who are food insecure currently.
We have access to fuel for food production, distribution, driving to buy our groceries, waste management.	33 days of diesel supply in Australia
We have a farming workforce who can continue to produce food for people here.	Average age of farmers now 63, Mental ill-health amongst farmers is double the national average
The food in our major supermarkets meets our dietary and nutritional needs.	Ultra-processed foodss now comprise over 50% of the average Australian diet
In a time of crisis, food relief organisations will step in to fill the gap.	Increasing numbers of people seeking food relief. This should be a stop-gap not a staple.
Major supermarkets and food retailers will self-regulate their prices to put people eating before profits.	Multiple inquiries into supermarkets + Federal court finding of 'fake discounts'
The government will step in and support local communities in times of food insecurity and crisis.	Governments are not equipped to respond to increasing, multiple and severe disasters.

Making our food systems more resilient to shocks

Taking action across local food systems



Make it easier to buy food from local farmers

Protect farmland to grow food close to towns and cities



Diversify food production



Use more recycled water to grow food

Grow a wide variety of foods



Grow more food in neighbourhoods



Prevent food waste to lower GHG emissions



Plan for diverse food stores

Ensure that everyone can access healthy food in dignified ways

Fund and support First Peoples' food initiatives



Collaborate in a food resilience network

Map community food assets

Invest in infrastructure for local food processing and distribution



Plant community gardens and orchards

Set up community-based markets, stores and cafes

Create an action plan to make your community food system resilient

National Food Security Strategy: Feeding Australia



FOOD SYSTEMS UNDER PRESSURE: WHAT GLOBAL CONFLICT MEANS FOR AUSTRALIA

Thursday 16th of April
12:30 - 1:30pm AEST



SUSTAIN THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD NETWORK

SUSTAIN
the Australian food network

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Search

Arts + Culture Books + Ideas Business + Economy Education Environment + Energy Health Politics + Society Science

Australia's new food security strategy: what's on the table, and what's missing?

Published: October 3, 2025 11:05am AEST



Roadmap for a food secure Australia

- Legislate the right to food
- Establish a national food plan and governance framework
- Address structural drivers of food insecurity
- Transform food systems for health and sustainability

National Food Security Strategy: Feeding Australia



Sustain: The Australian Food Network

Guidance for your Feeding Australia submission



Sustain: The Australian Food Network

Australian Food Security Pulse Check

SUSTAIN
the Australian food network

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Search analysis, research, academics...

Arts + Culture Books + Ideas Business + Economy Education Environment + Energy Health **Politics + Society** Science + Tech



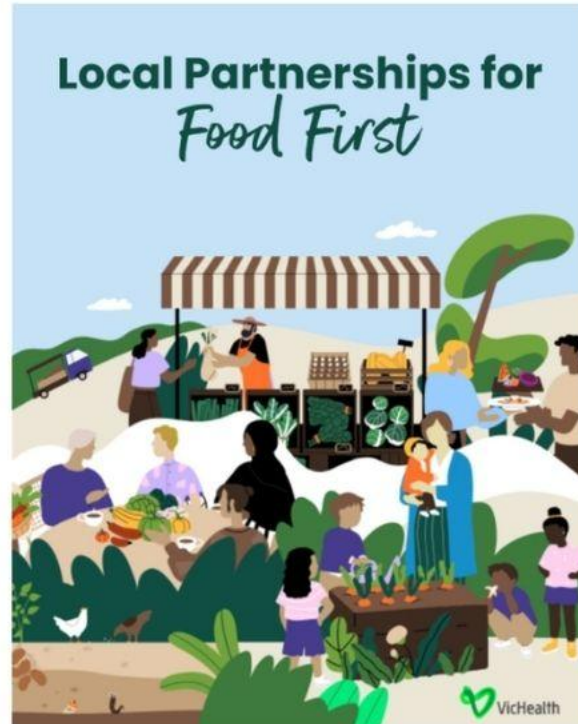
To boost the nation's health, the government's proposed food strategy must put people over profits

Published: May 16, 2025 3:01pm AEST

Our role in food security strategy development includes:

- Webinars + template to support submissions
- Attending co-design workshops
- Direct correspondence with DAFF food security team
- Food Security Pulse Check Survey (April 2026)
- Food Policy Forums: Launceston (Dec 2025); Melbourne (May 2026); Perth (Nov 2026)

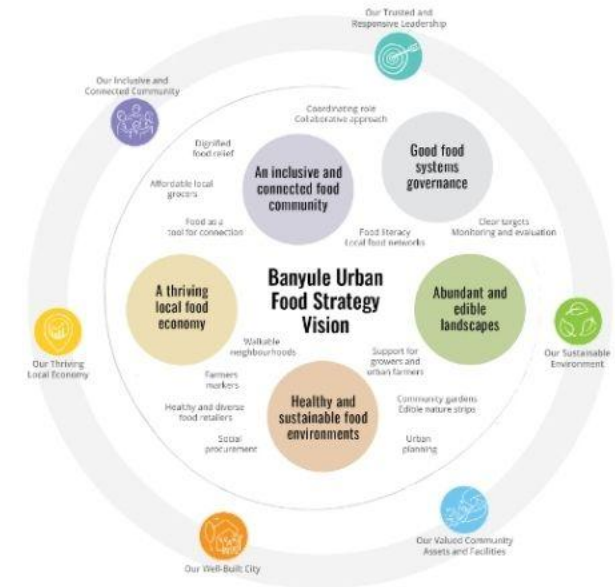
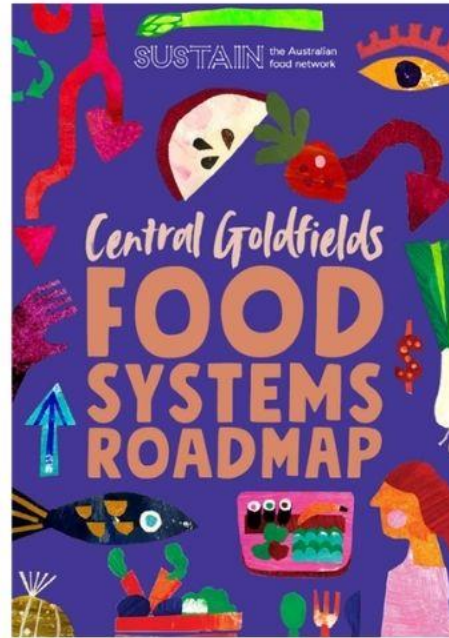
Public health + health promotion leadership across a whole state



Where the change is happening



Local governments supporting a more resilient localised food system



Gathering - Deepening - Acting - Monitoring

Grassroots + community-led initiatives



outer east
foodshare

HOME PAGE ▾ DONATE OUR SUPPORTERS ▾

Eldorado Food Share

Eldorado Food Share provides the community with the opportunity to share excess produce they may have grown in their own backyards. The Food Share welcomes everyone even if you have nothing to share at the time. They encourage those who have never grown their own produce and have a desire to learn more, to those who have extensive knowledge and are willing to share their experience with others in the community. The Food Share encourages all age groups in the Eldorado and surrounding districts to attend.



Practical things
you can do to
strengthen your
community's food
security resilience
in preparation for
disasters, shocks +
stressors

1. We need to prepare for our local contexts - with the people, places, infrastructure, assets + resources we have
2. Map your community food assets
 - a. Food swaps
 - b. Community gardens
 - c. Small-scale local producers
 - d. Medium-large scale producers
 - e. Food relief organisations
 - f. Co-ops
 - g. Independent retailers
3. Map your community infrastructure
 - a. Kitchens
 - b. Community facilities
 - c. Markets
 - d. Cool storage
 - e. Transport
4. Know your community's food needs
 - a. Dietary needs, household types, transport + access, income, skills + resources to prepare food
5. Build relationships + local food networks
6. Plan + prepare for food security resilience

Practical things
you can do to
strengthen your
community's food
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Steps in food resilience planning



Assessing and mapping

Identify vulnerabilities to shocks and map assets for resilience



Visioning

Develop a collective vision for a resilient food system



Taking action

Take action to build the resilience of food systems



Monitoring and evaluation

Monitor and evaluate food resilience initiatives

Fundamentals of food resilience planning



Making the case

Make the case for food resilience planning



Food with dignity

Promote equitable and dignified access to adequate food



Collaborating with partners

Identify partners and learn how to collaborate effectively



Tools and templates

Quick access to food resilience planning tools

Ways we can connect and support you:

- Sign up to our **newsletter**
- Join the **Australian Food Network**
- Chat to us about **our services** (mapping, planning, research + capacity building)
- **Community of practice:** quarterly local government networking forums.
- **Food Forums:** Launceston, Melbourne + Perth

Connect with us

nick.rose@sustain.org.au

mia.cox@sustain.org.au

www.sustain.org.au



THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD NETWORK



The Australian Food Network is a digital community where food system advocates—from farmers and chefs to educators, policymakers and community leaders—connect, collaborate, and learn from each other daily





Thank you

Speaker Introductions

Rachel Montgomery

Director, National Coordination Mechanism Operations

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)



Australian Government

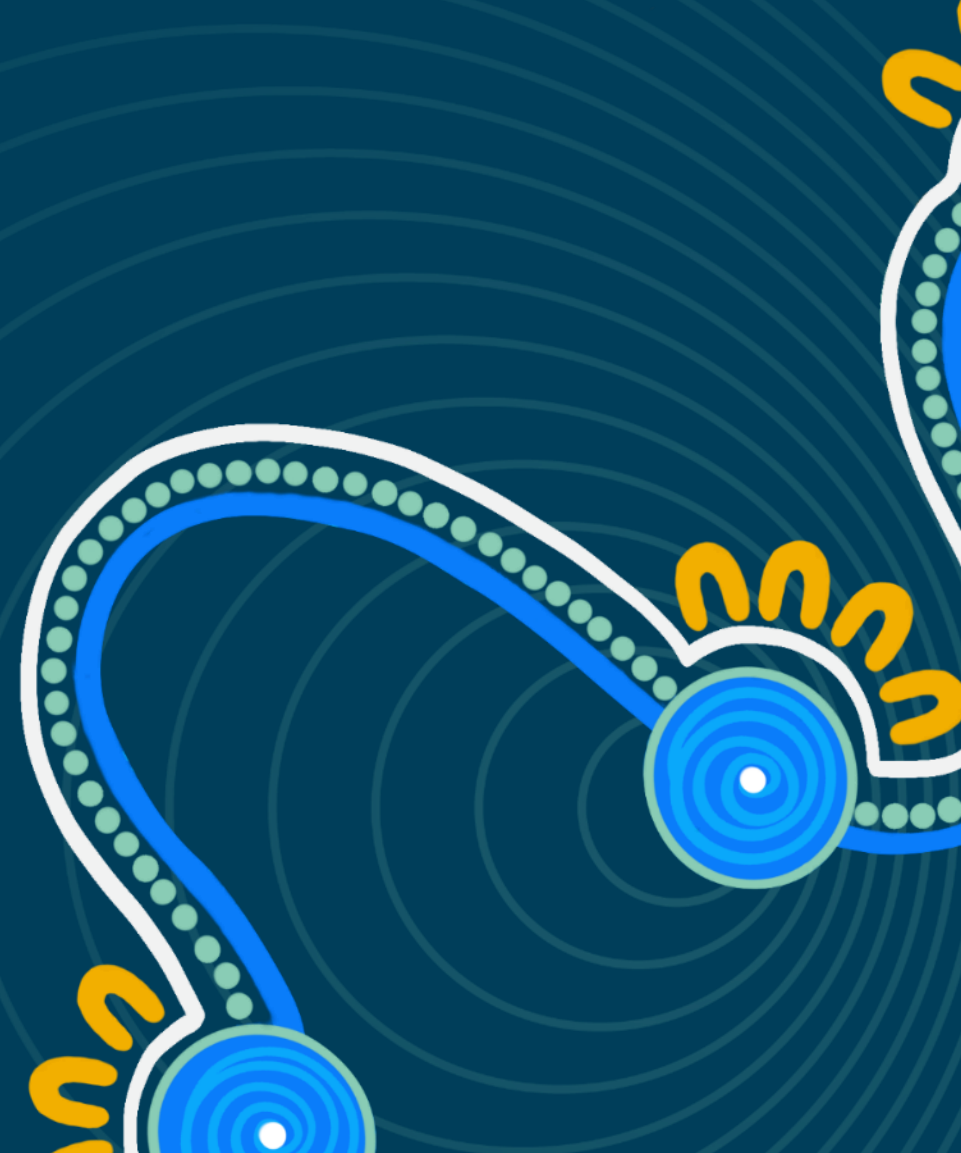
National Emergency Management Agency

NEMA and the National Coordination Mechanism

Rachel Montgomery

Director, National Coordination Mechanism

Emergency Management and Response Group



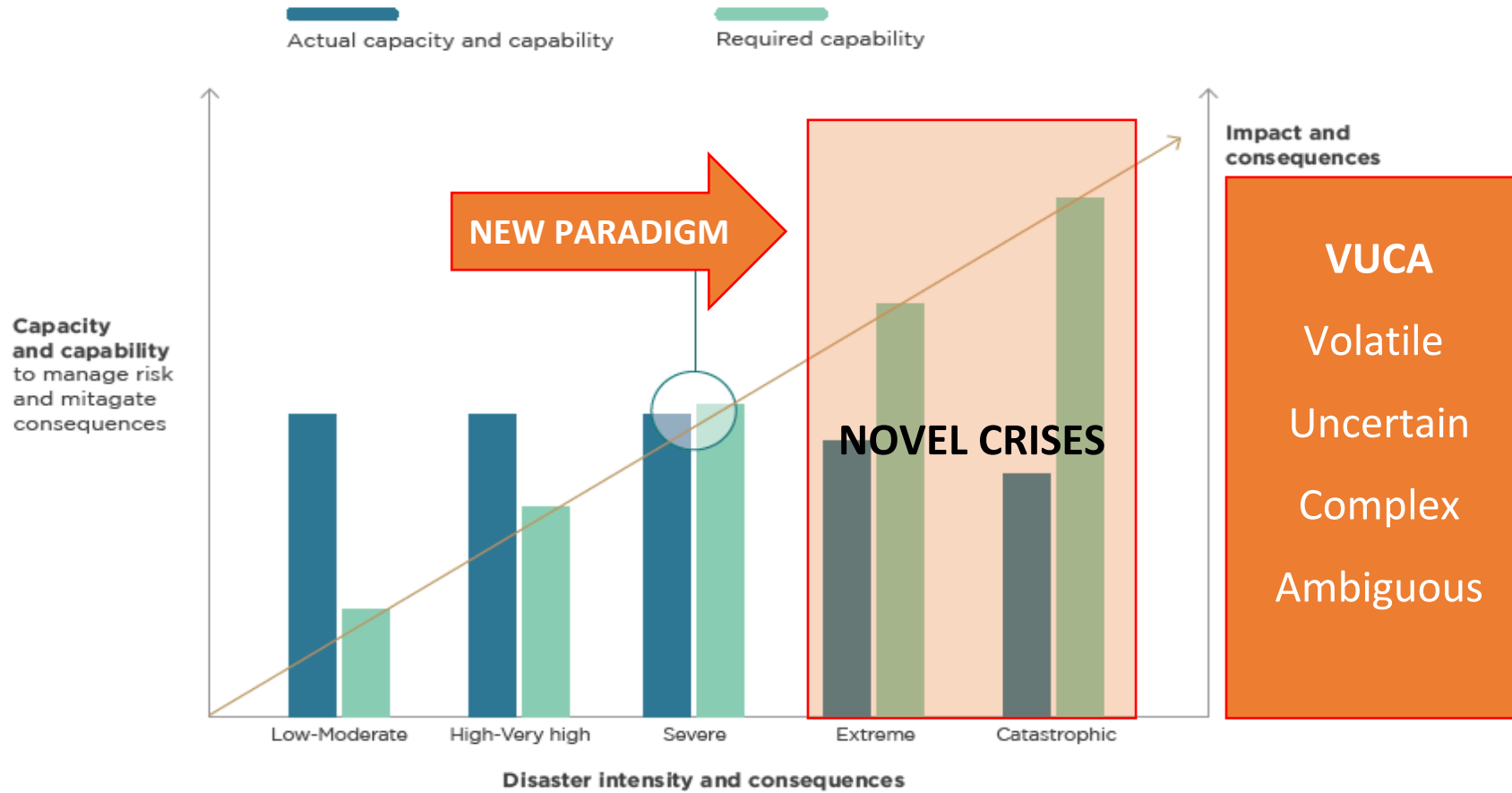
Who we are

The National Emergency Management Agency develops, leads and coordinates Australia's connected approach to emergency management.

For all hazards that may reach national significance, we support across all elements of the emergency management continuum.

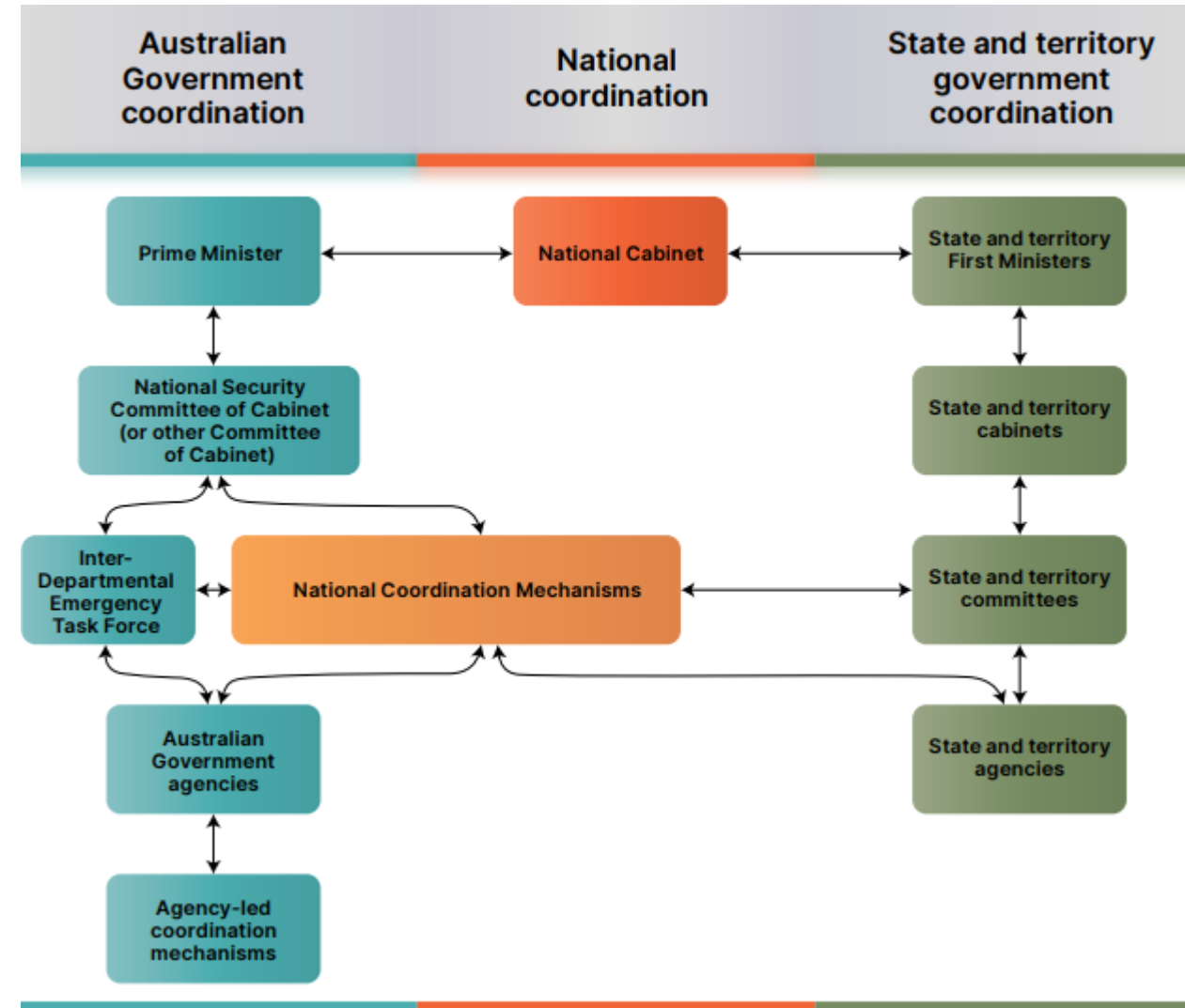


Potential environment



Australian Government Crisis Management Framework

- Australian Government capstone policy for national crisis management arrangements
- Guidance on roles and responsibilities
- Identifies lead agencies for different types of hazards
- Links ministerial responsibility to the work of key officials, committees and capabilities



Triggers for Australian Government Involvement



A request from a state or territory for Australian Government assistance



An incident across multiple jurisdictions or industry sectors



A crisis with both domestic and international components



The scale of the crisis and its potential impact



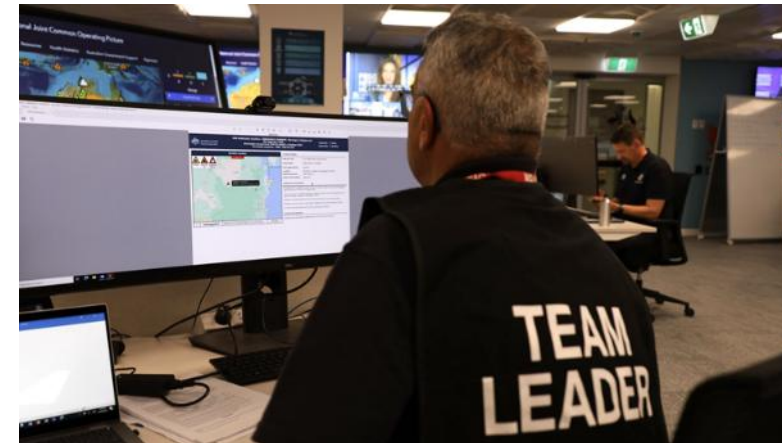
Multiple simultaneous crises



Community expectation of national leadership

NEMA response capabilities

- Strategic Planning and Engagement
- National Situation Room
- National Joint Common Operating Picture
- Crisis Coordination Team
- Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP)
- National Exercising and Lessons Capability
- National Preparedness Program
- National Coordination Mechanism



National Coordination Mechanism

- can consider any crisis topic
- flexible and scalable
- shares situational awareness
- defines problems and assigns responsibility for solutions
- promotes stakeholder collaboration
- strengthens ties among governments, industry and not-for-profit organisations
- uses national capabilities



NCM activation at different AGCMF tiers

- NCM supports coordination activity at each of the AGCMF coordination tiers
- coordination and reporting becomes more complex as event severity and complexity increases



NCM – an all hazards tool

Supports critical food and grocery supply chain stabilisation during:

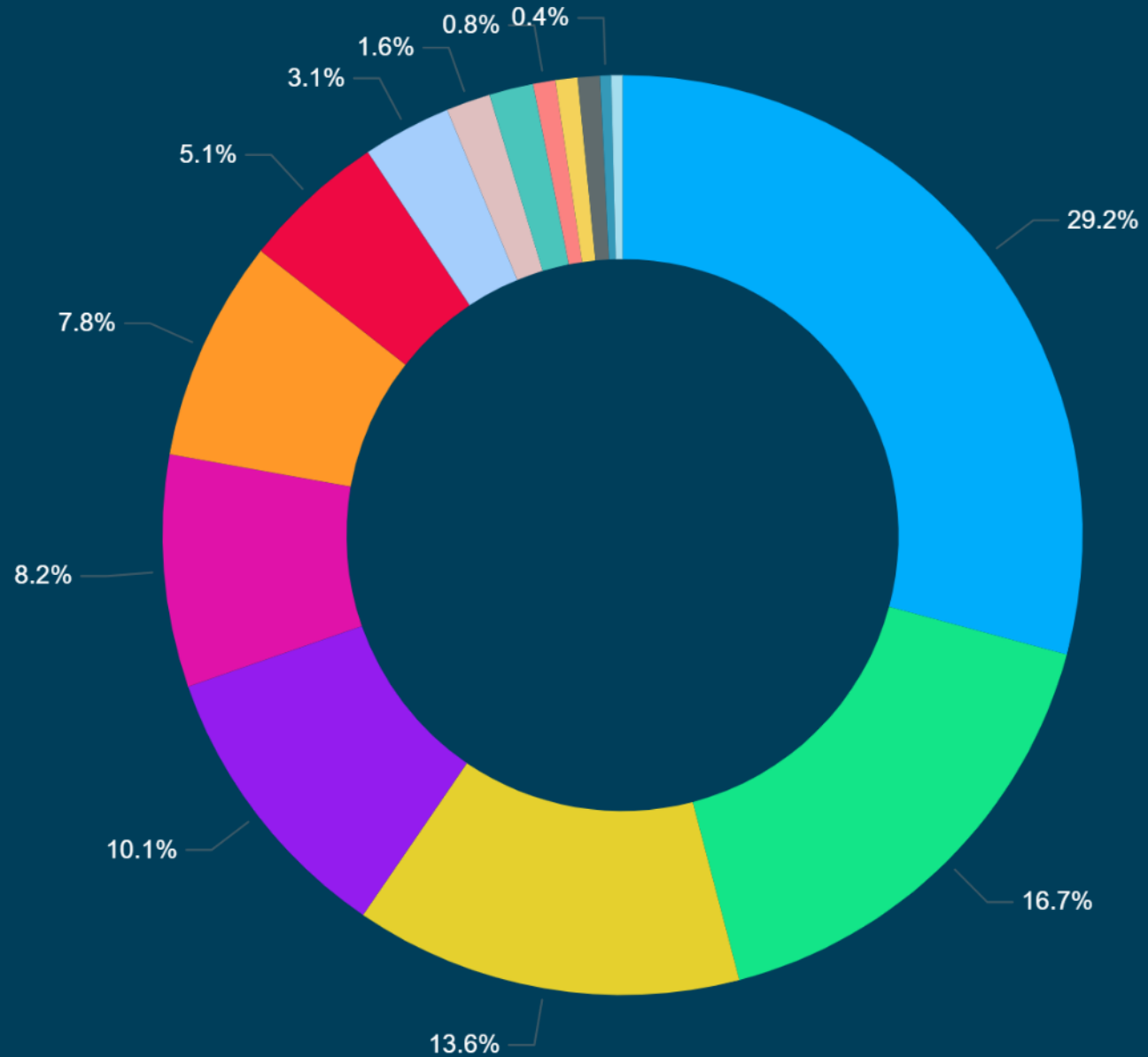
- Natural hazard incidents: cyclones, storms, floods, fires
- Critical infrastructure outages
- National cyber incidents
- Biosecurity incidents: human, flora and fauna
- National security



NCM held since NEMA inception (September 2022)

Category

- Severe Weather
- HRWS briefings
- Cyber
- National Security
- International Conflict
- AUSRECEPLAN
- Biosecurity
- Preparedness
- Critical Infrastructure
- Exercise
- International Assistance
- Natural Hazards
- Space Weather
- Other Incident
- Supply Chain



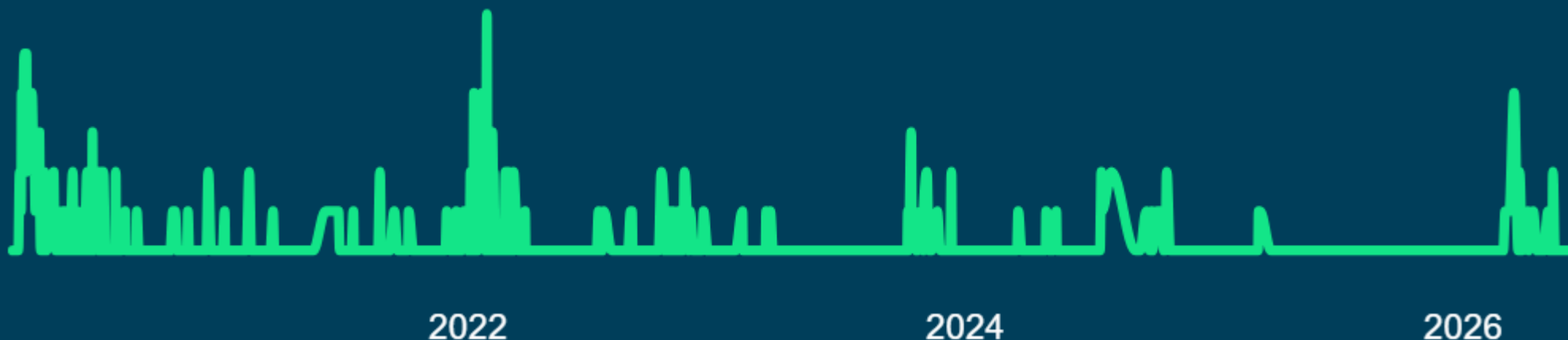
NCM statistics since NCM inception in March 2020

723 NCMs since inception

175 NCMs directly focussed on food supply crises – 24%

120+ NCMs for severe weather or natural hazards – 16%

NCMs likely to consider food supply – at least 40%



What makes the NCM unique?

We're not a typical secretariat:

- An **NCM can be called at any time**
 - Often little to no notice to plan and prepare
 - CrowdStrike national IT outage required **speed to action** within 2 hours
- We can be **run multiple NCMs at one time** if there are consecutive, compounding and concurrent crises
 - **sub-teams** with a **flexible yet standardised approach** to meeting structure and delivery
- **No Terms of Reference**
 - ensures we remain flexible and agile to respond to any type of crisis
- **No set membership**
 - invitee lists are almost always different
 - the right people from the right organisations that have equity in the crisis

NCM: Who attends?

- Not a committee
- No standing membership
- Attendance is by invitation only and will vary depending on the crisis
- We may invite Australian, state, territory and local government officials, along with relevant industry, not-for-profit representatives and expert advisors:
 - those being impacted by the crisis
 - those who have relevant knowledge and experience
 - those who have a potential role in identifying and implementing stabilising actions

NCM: Who makes the call?

- NEMA's Deputy Coordinator-General for Emergency Management and Response (DCG EMR) activates and chairs or co-chairs the NCM
 - NCM-AUSGOV: Australian Government only
 - NCM: any mix of stakeholders from government, industry and the not-for-profit sectors
- In specific circumstances, other Australian Government senior officials may chair the NCM
- Other relevant Australian Government officials may co-chair an NCM
- States, territories, private sector organisations or the not-for-profit sector may request that NEMA consider activating the NCM for a specific purpose or issue

NCM: What to expect

- Requests for key contact updates to NEMA contact lists
- Invitation at short notice to key contacts, who may be asked to contribute to situational awareness updates
- Usually an hour-long NCM with other organisations that have equity in the crisis
 - any mix of Australian Government, states and territories and local governments, media, industry and not-for-profit sectors
- Shared situational awareness, collaborative problem solving and coordinated responses
- Solutions management during consecutive, concurrent and compounding crises



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National Emergency Management Agency

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Questions?

www.nema.gov.au

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Q&A

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

Event concludes

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

Next event:

NAIDOC Week special webinar:

Indigenous Leadership in Disaster Resilience

Tuesday 7 July 2026,
1.00pm-2.00pm AEST



Register now.



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience 

SPOT LIGHT SERIES