



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
**DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION**

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2026: Resilience starts at home



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



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
- To turn on captions, go to "More" then select "Show captions"
- 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

Welcome

John Richardson

Executive Director

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)

What does this content mean for you?

How could you apply your learnings to your role?

One action you feel inspired to take.

Speaker Introductions

Adrian Sains

Member and Technical Advisor, Resilient Kurilpa

Principal Engineer, ACS Consult

AIDR Presentation - Content



- Resilient Kurilpa origins
- The Riverpoint Experience
Plan / Prepare / Respond
- Conclusions

Adrian Sains

Resilient Kurilpa member
Riverpoint Apartments Resident
Chartered civil engineer



Kurilpa



Kurilpa is an Indigenous word from the Turrbal and Yuggera languages meaning "place of the water rat" or "place of the kuril".

Kurilpa (the place) refers to the suburbs on the Brisbane river-bounded peninsula of Highgate Hill, South Brisbane, West End and Hill End.



Development Context



- Kurilpa has one of the most densely populated footprints in Queensland with over 36,000 residents, >20% growth since 2021, largely in apartments.
- The Kurilpa Sustainable Growth Precinct is designed to fast-track housing supply and high-rise development ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.
- The Brisbane City Council planning framework now allows CBD-style skyscraper heights (12 to 50+ storeys).
- Proposals have been lodged for over 5,000 new dwellings across multiple high-rise projects.



Resilient Kurilpa



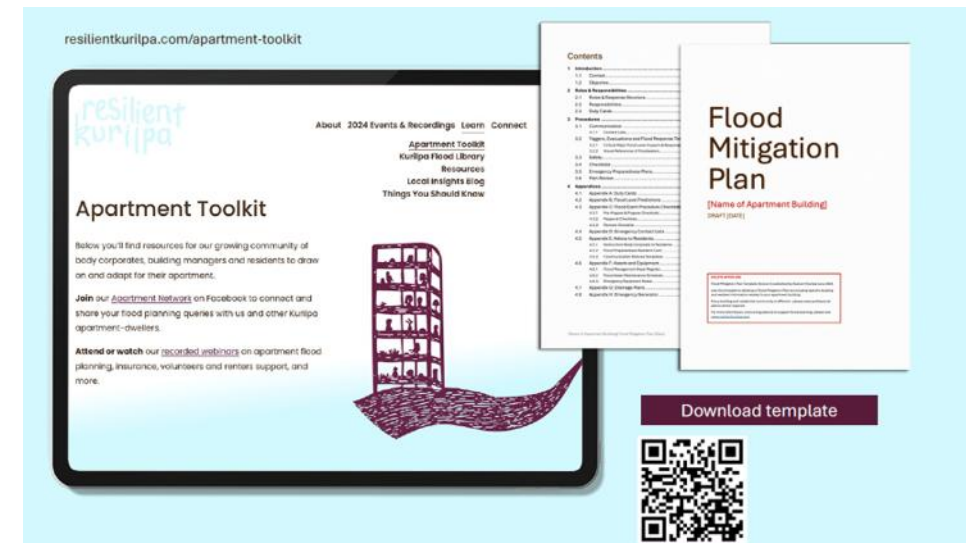
- Resilient Kurilpa is a voluntary network of residents and representatives from multiple organisations.
- Formed in April 2022 in response to the February major flood event that inundated over 23,000 households and apartments across Meanjin (Brisbane).
- RK Vision:
 - To nurture an informed, skilled, and connected community, empowered to rapidly and safely respond and recover to climate disaster events, including flood, drought, urban heat stress and cyclonic events.
 - To support groups to learn from the past and implement practical and inclusive mitigation strategies.
 - To lead community in grassroots disaster resilience building and share knowledge with local and global climate disaster communities to adapt for their own contexts.



Post 2022 Flood - Riverpoint



- Post 2022 it was evident that following the 2011 floods, few mitigating measures had been put in place in existing and new buildings.
- A group of residents from Riverpoint Apartments, who are also practicing and retired professionals from the engineering and building sectors, volunteered their expertise and resources to develop a flood plan template for their building.
- The result of their work is the Riverpoint Flood Mitigation Plan 2022.
- Working with RK, this resource is freely available to other apartment complexes to adapt for their own buildings.



<https://www.resilientkurilpa.com/apartment-toolkit>

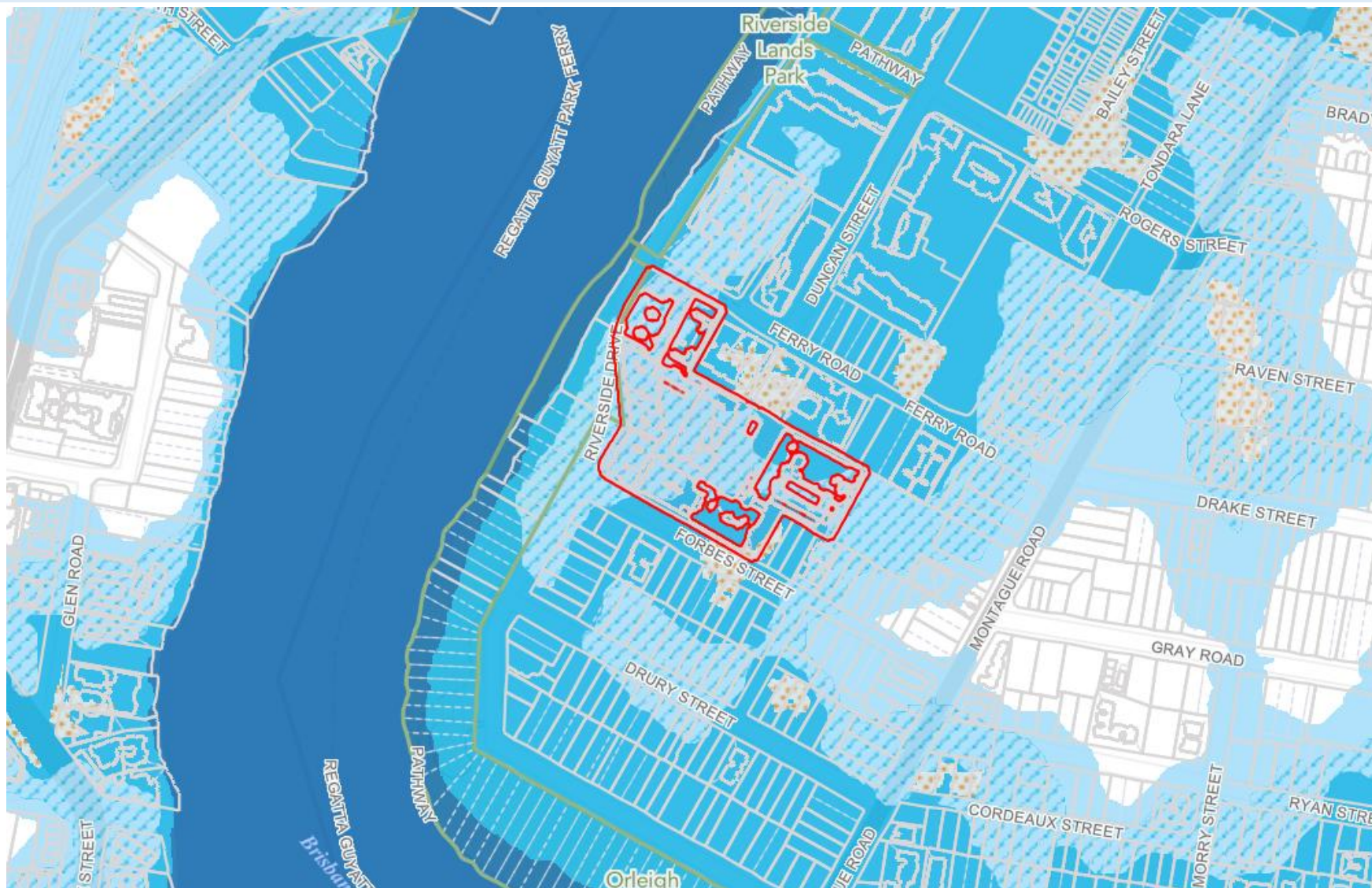
Resilient Kurilpa Response



- RK identified the need for enhanced flood response planning for apartment buildings
- RK used the Riverpoint Apartments' experience as a base of information for the broader community.
- RK has facilitated workshops, seminars, webinars for a broad range of audiences including body corporates, community groups, Local & State authorities and statutory agencies.
- The Kurilpa Flood Library shares the apartment template work, and a great depth of supporting information, as a community resource.
- In the lead in to Cyclone Alfred, just one short RK preparation advice webinar led to 100,000 hits on the RK website over 3 days.
- RK works has been recognised with the 2025 Queensland Resilient Australia Award and the 2025 National Resilient Australia Award

The Riverpoint Experience

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Updated BCC flood
mapping post 2022

Riverpoint Site Plan

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Built in 3 stages
2008-2016

3ha site on
suspended slab
over basement
car park

10 buildings

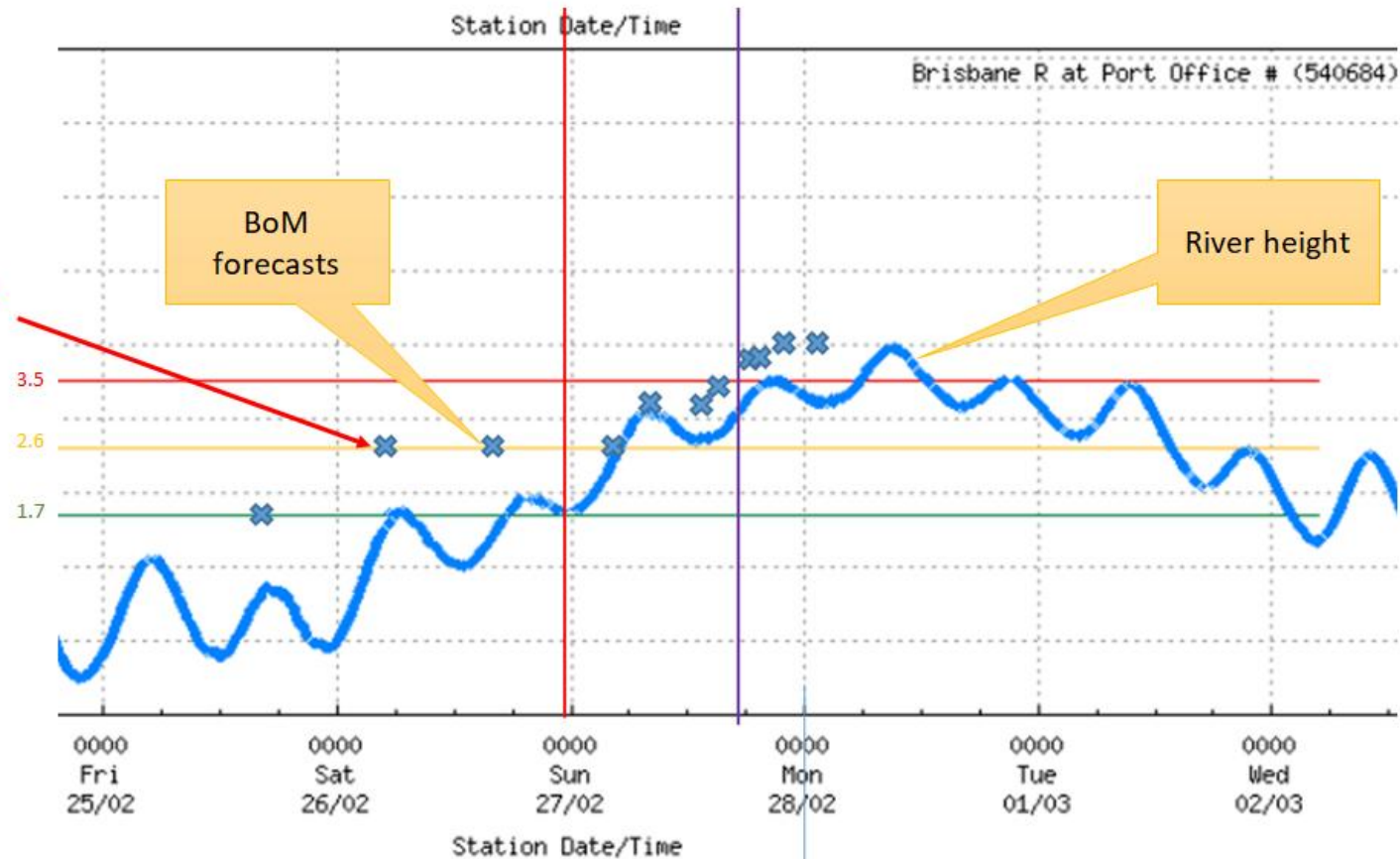
331 apartments

+700 residents

Flood Forecasting

2022 –
forecasts Vs
actual river
height

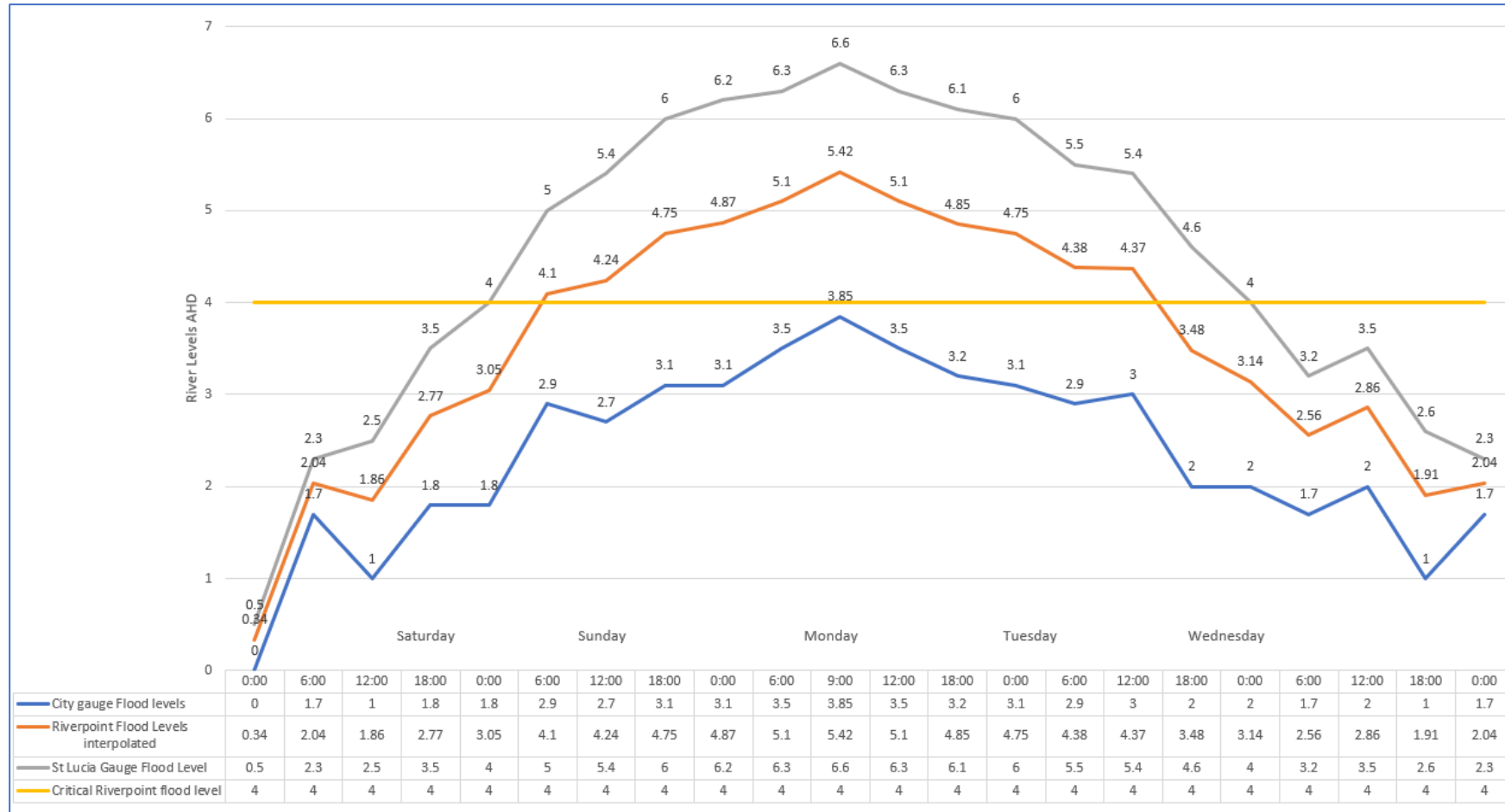
Target warning lead
time 24hrs



Forecasts can
be challenging
to interpret,
may not provide
much notice
and may change
rapidly

Source – BCC 2022 Flood Review, de Jersey
overlaid on BoM 2022 river height chart

Interpolation of City & St Lucia Gauges



Local flood impacts may require interpolation of upstream and downstream flood gauge data

Visual Prompts – correlating data

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7pm Sat 26 Feb – 3.0m AHD



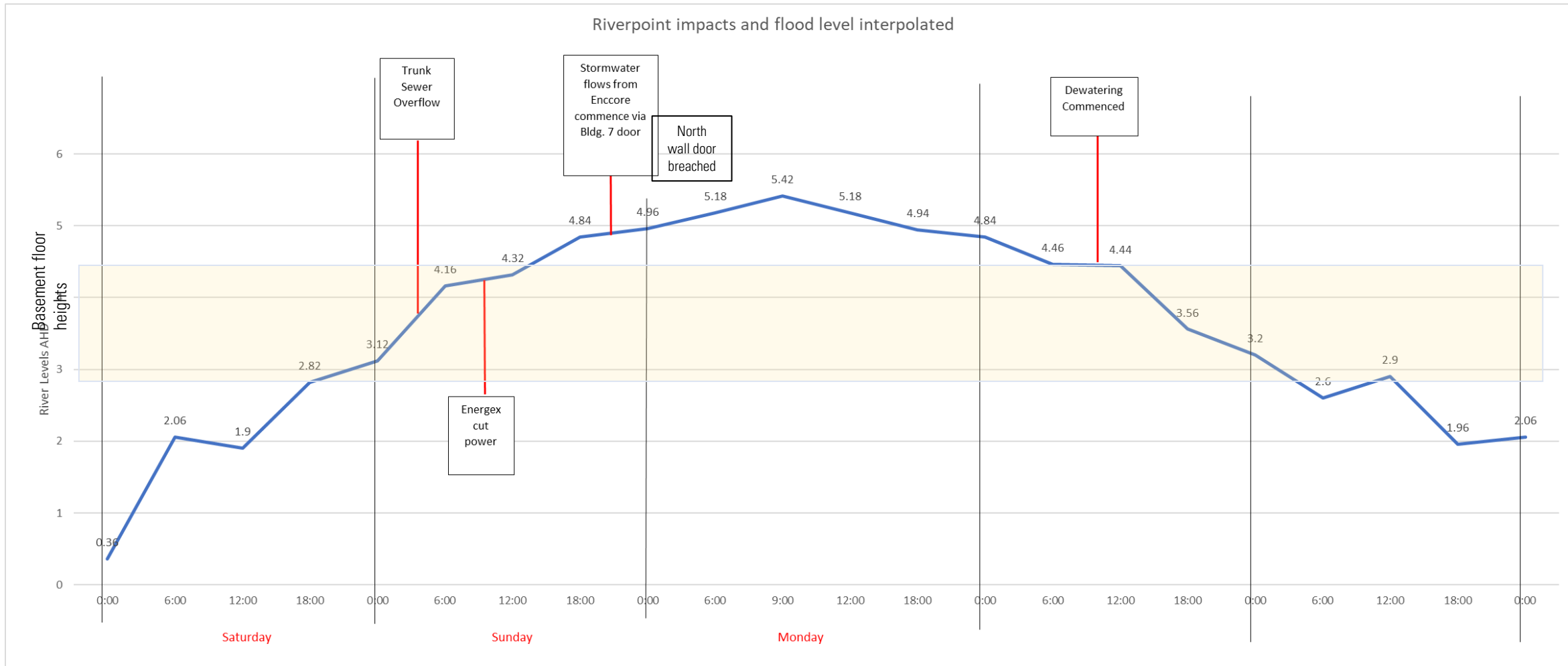
10am Sun 27 Feb – 4.0m AHD



9am Mon 28 Feb – 5.4m AHD



Trigger Points



Riverpoint Trigger Points

Riverpoint Trigger Points

[illegible]

Do You Know Your Building (1)



- Body Corporate responsibility
- What data do you have at hand over - As Constructed Plans
 - Civil / Structural
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
- Operational Procedures / Maintenance Plans
- What does 3.8m at City Gauge mean locally?

Riverpoint Records?



- Body Corporate / Building Manager had limited records to hand
- As Constructed Plans partly completed or not available (date back 12 years)
 - Contractor/consultant may not exist – records are lost
 - Key information is lost e.g. Riverpoint flood planks were stored in basement, the bolts and brackets have been lost
- Impact of Energex protocols were unknown
- Impact of sewer and flow paths were unknown
- City Gauge levels not understood – no Floodwise awareness

Vulnerable Assets

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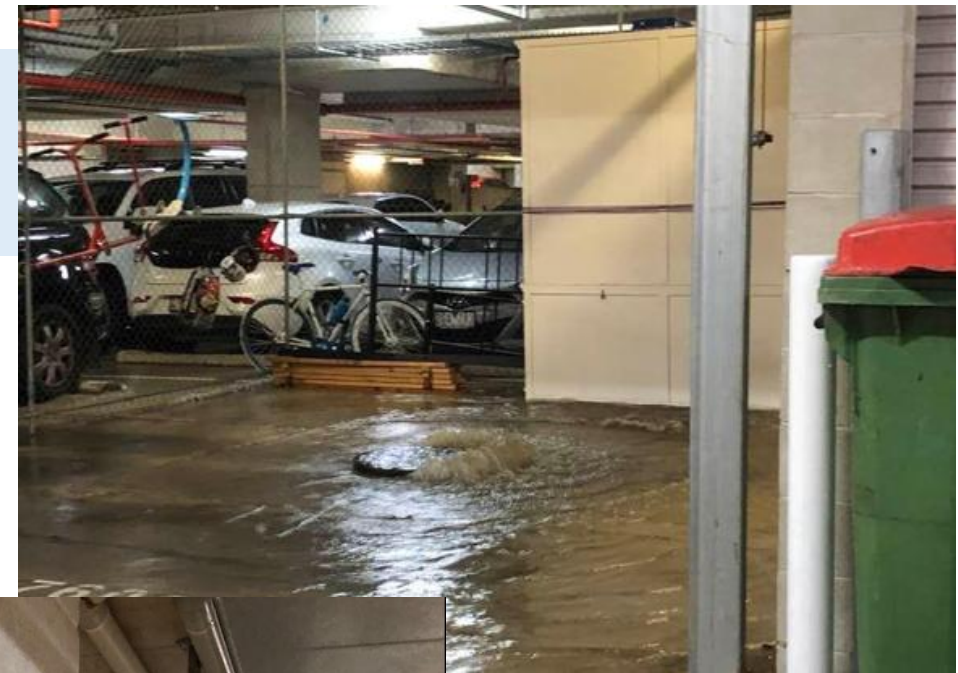
- Lifts
- Transformers
- Switchboards
- Pump controls
- Electricity meters
- Fire booster pumps
- Pool pumps
- **Carbon monoxide monitors**
- Extractor fans and hot water systems
- Basement and fire escape emergency lighting



Bldg 2-3 meter repairs

Sewer

- Two trunk sewer manholes under Bldg 7 “popped” their lids as under significant pressure.
- Sewer manholes fail early and result in significant health risks.
- Manholes have now been bolted down by Urban Utilities.
- Back up props will be installed in a flood
- Also propping high risk SW manholes



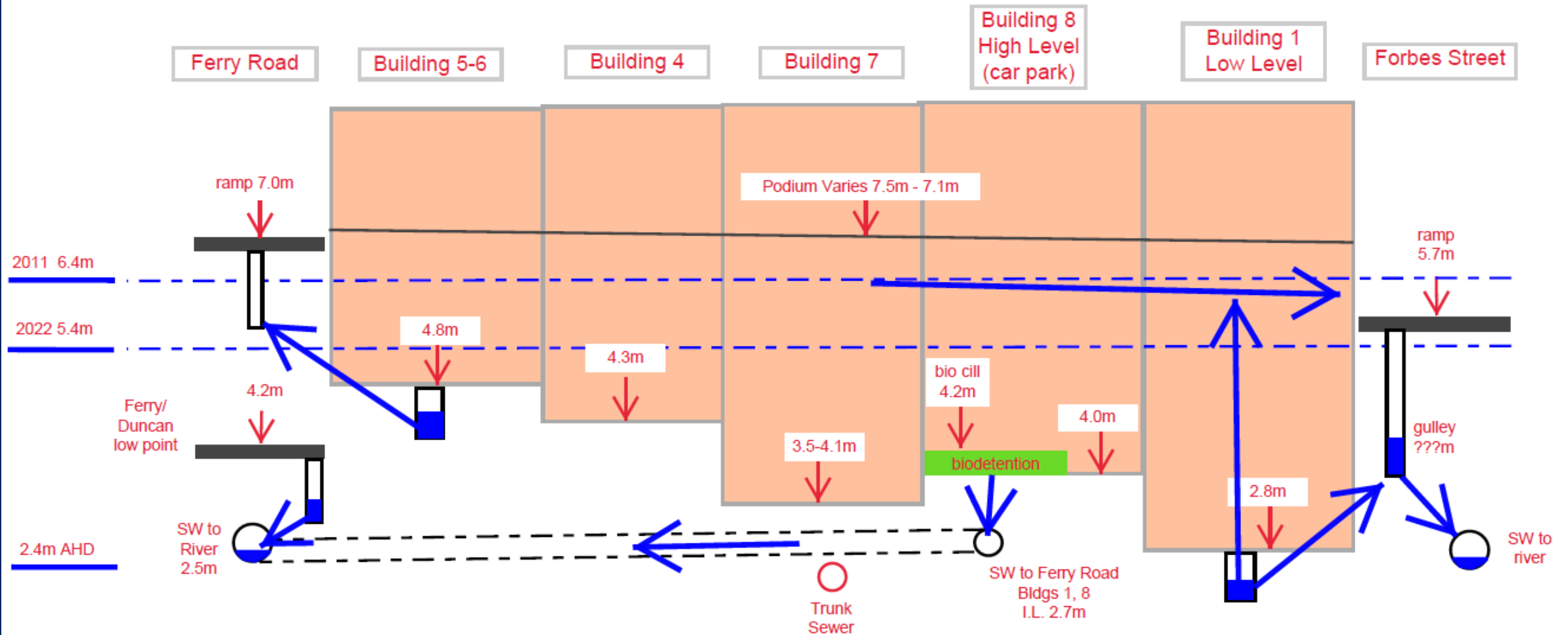
River Back Flow

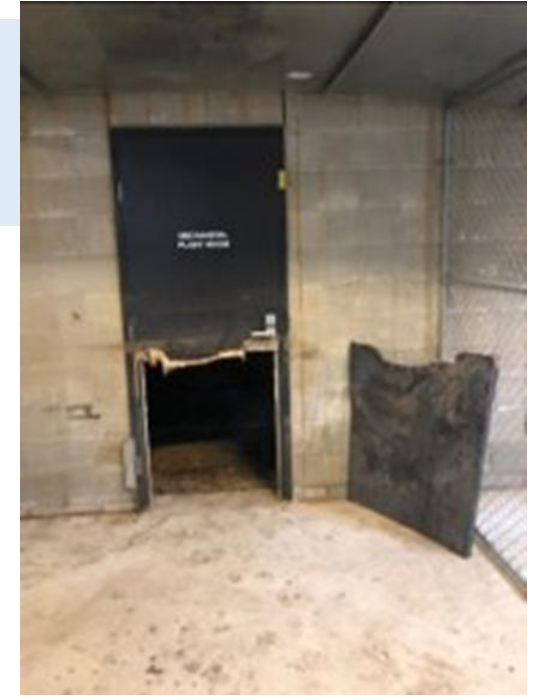


Do You Know Your Building (2)

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ALL BASEMENT LEVELS INDICATIVELY LOWEST POINT





Barriers

Forbes Street

Lift Wells





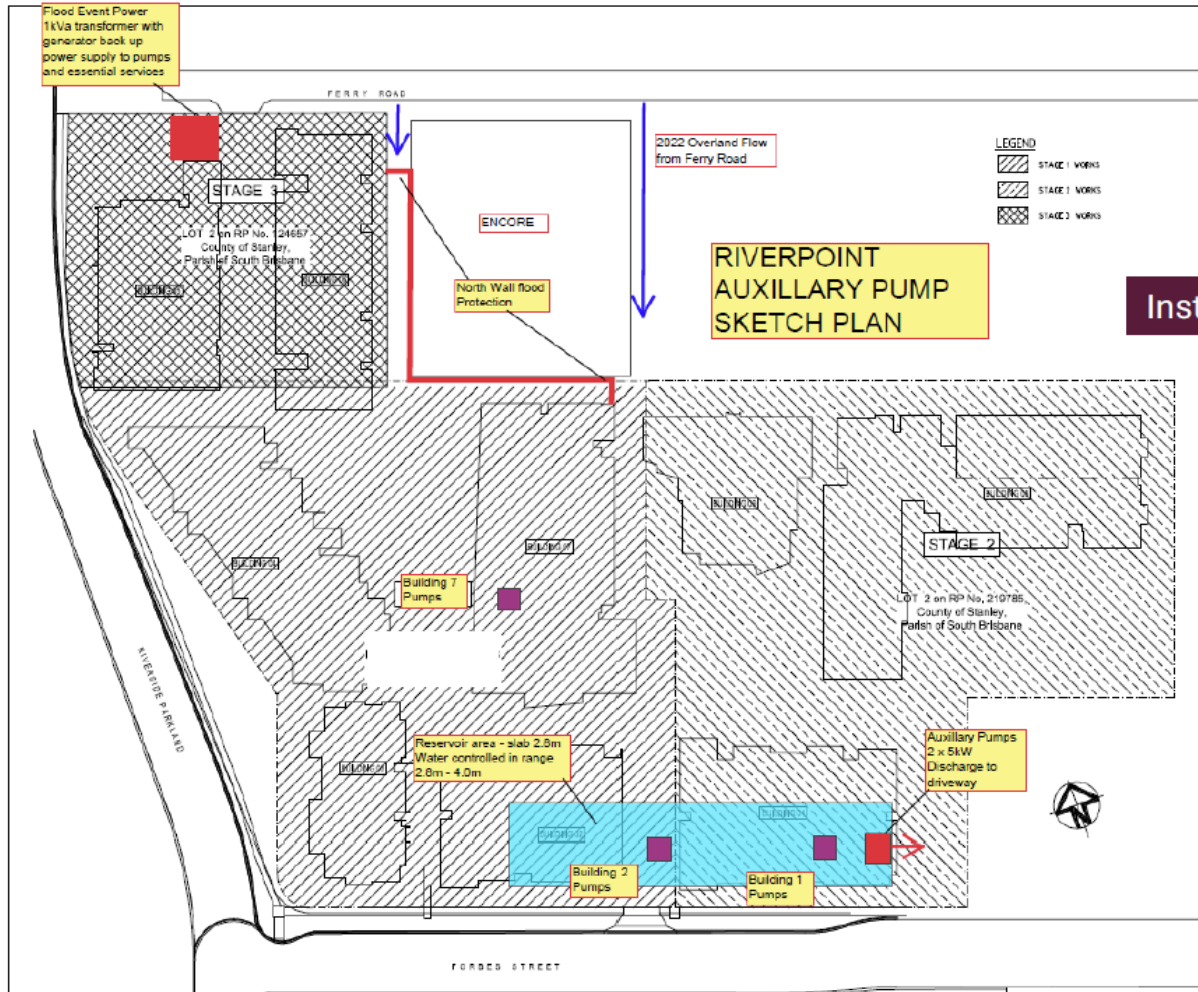
Testing and maintaining pumps



Designating the low-level basement to act as a control detention tank

Basement Flood Reservoir

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Installing emergency back-up pumps



Power Supply Intro



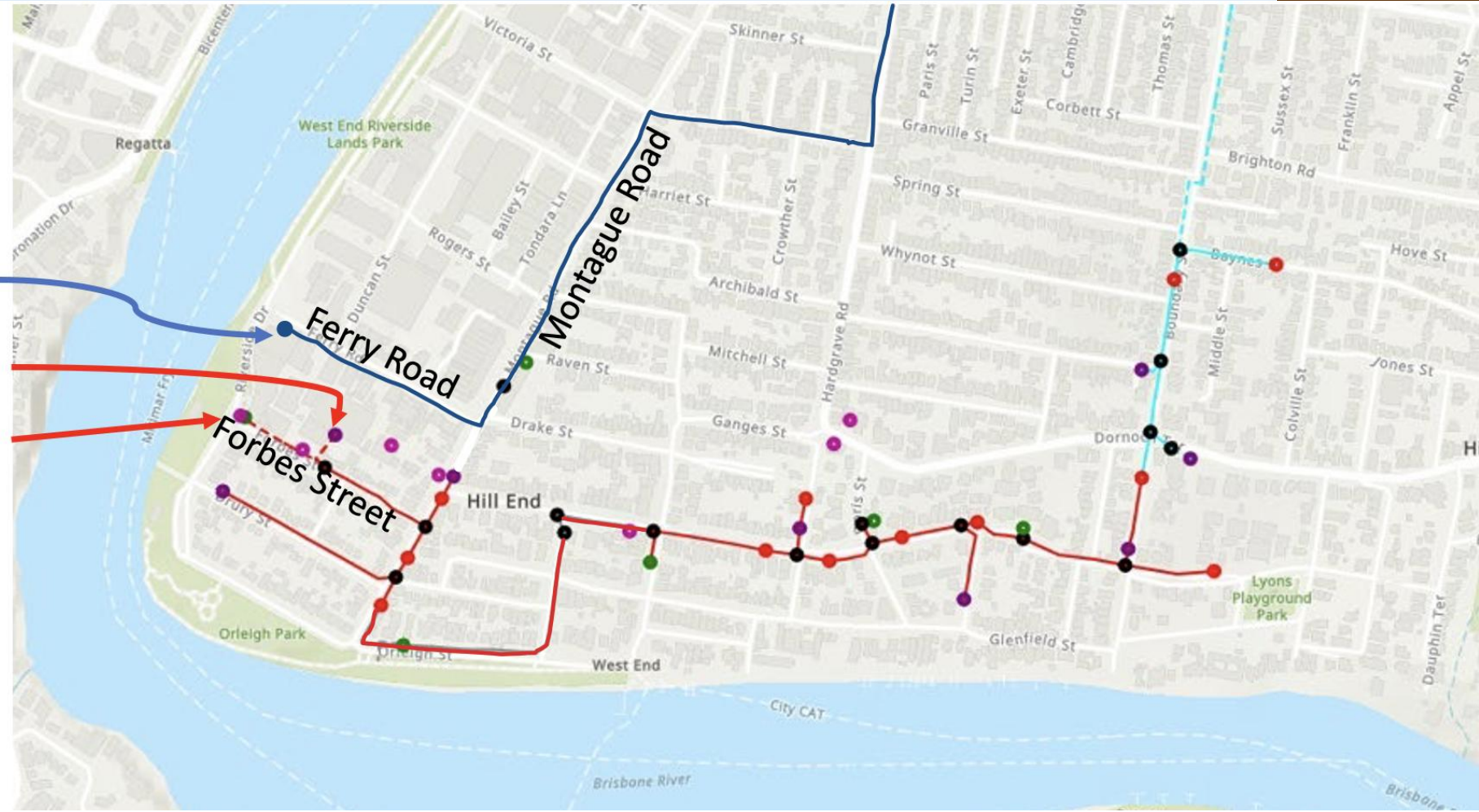
- Securing the basement from flood water will not resolve all issues
- Water will enter basement from other sources including:
 - groundwater,
 - roof water from Stage 1 Buildings 2, 3 & 4
 - podium areas around Stage 1 pool,
 - pool overflow and
 - general leaks
- Power supply to pumps is therefore critical

Power Supply – Energex Network

#60 Ferry Rd

#43 Forbes St

#55 Forbes St



Energex correctly regards the **RED** route as highly susceptible to flooding and pre-emptively disconnects this feed without warning.

Engagement with Energex



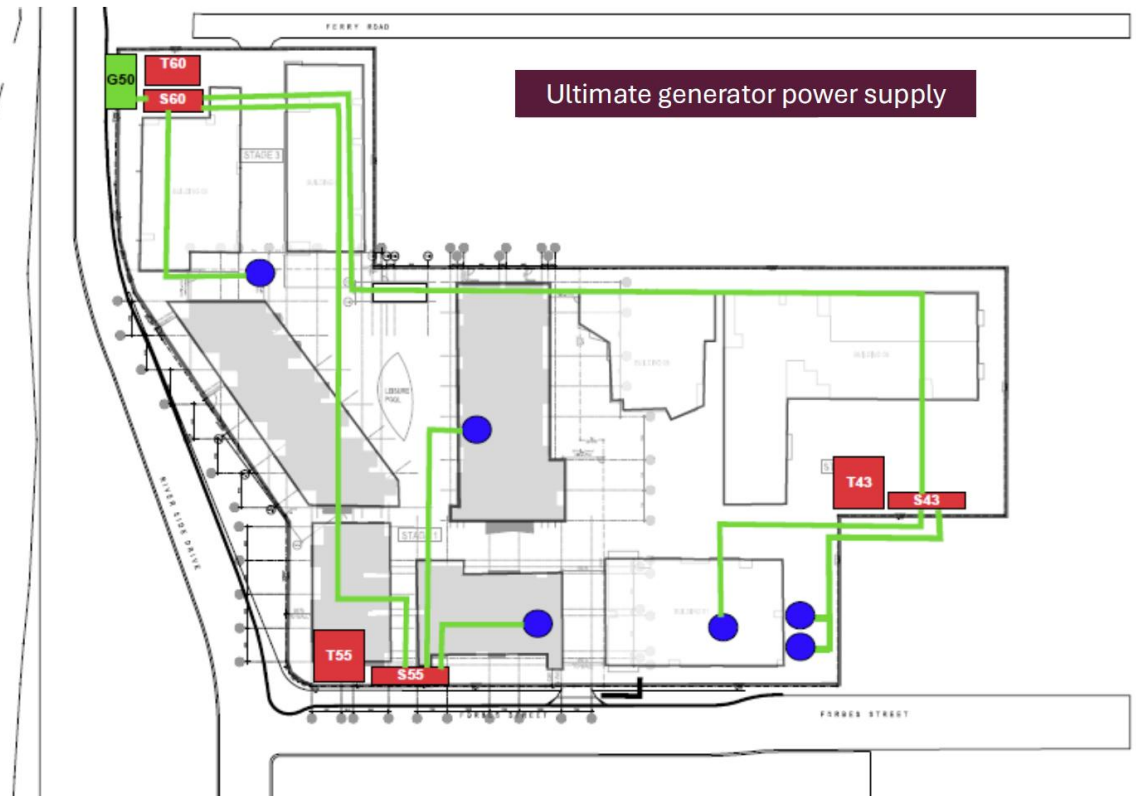
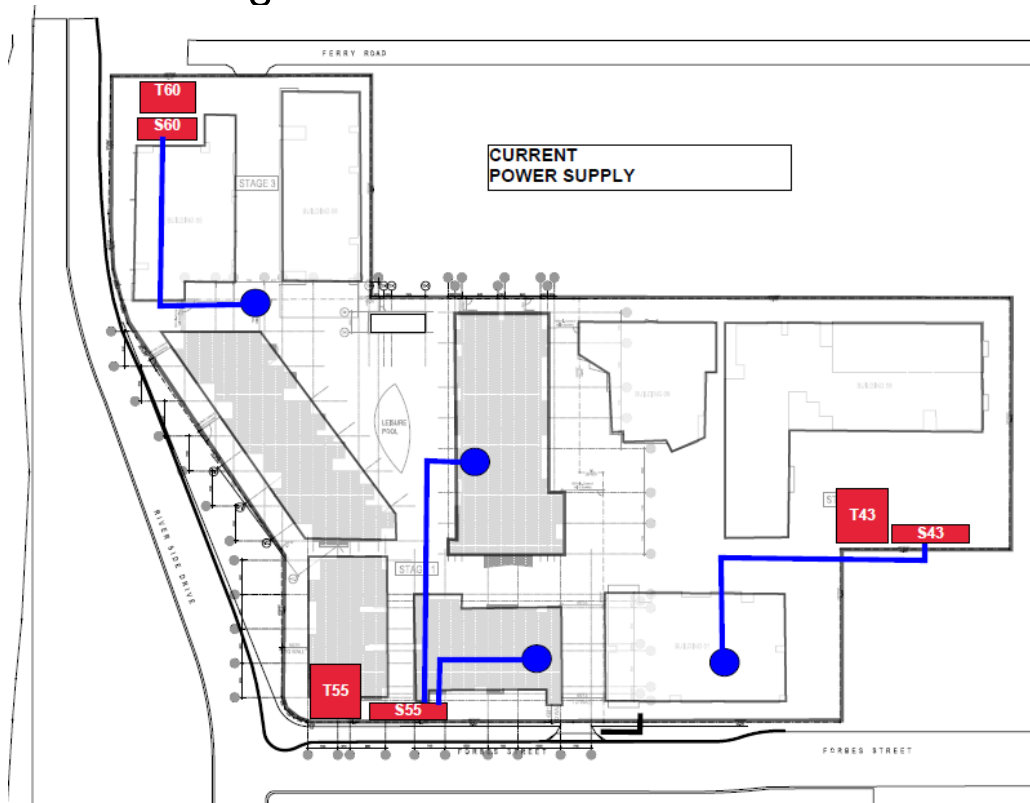
- Engaged Energex-accredited consultants to assist with submission - awaiting Energex's response (4-month minimum wait)
- Repositioning or replacement likely to be major expense to Riverpoint and still be disconnected in a flood event
- #43 is connected to housing in Forbes and Drury
- #55 is connected to #43
- Therefore - no guarantee future weather events will not cause loss of power



#55 Basement Transformer

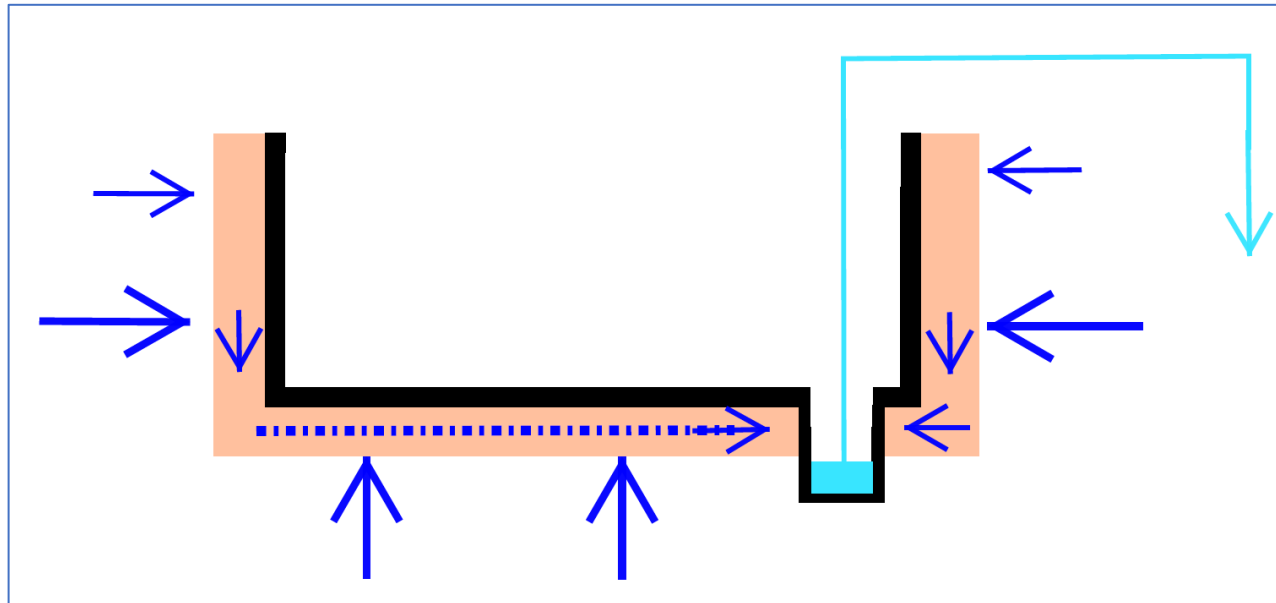
Ultimate Emergency Power Supply

- Utilize #60 Ferry Rd transformer as a source of more resilient power for all pumps and lighting
- Add provision for a generator to provide backup power if #60 disconnected by Energex



Hydrostatic Pressure

- No consultant accountability (structural engineer, hydraulic engineer)
- Riverpoint has slab drainage, sumps and pumps as a permanent set up. There are no designed relief valves installed other than the outlets to sumps.
- Remains untested as in the 2 floods to date the basement filled to same level as River



Riverpoint Specific Resilience Actions



- Construct barriers to overland flowpaths
- Assess internal stormwater connections to the street
- Secure manholes, including sewer and stormwater covers
- Check sewer vent stack pipes and valves (e.g. bin stores and car wash bays)
- Determine Energex operational protocols
- Install auxiliary pumps
- Install emergency electrical supply – re-route power and provide generator back-up
- Home lifts – protect vulnerable lift wells
- Check ground water / hydrostatic pressure risks

Flood Mitigation Plan

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PLAN / PREPARE / RESPOND / RECOVER

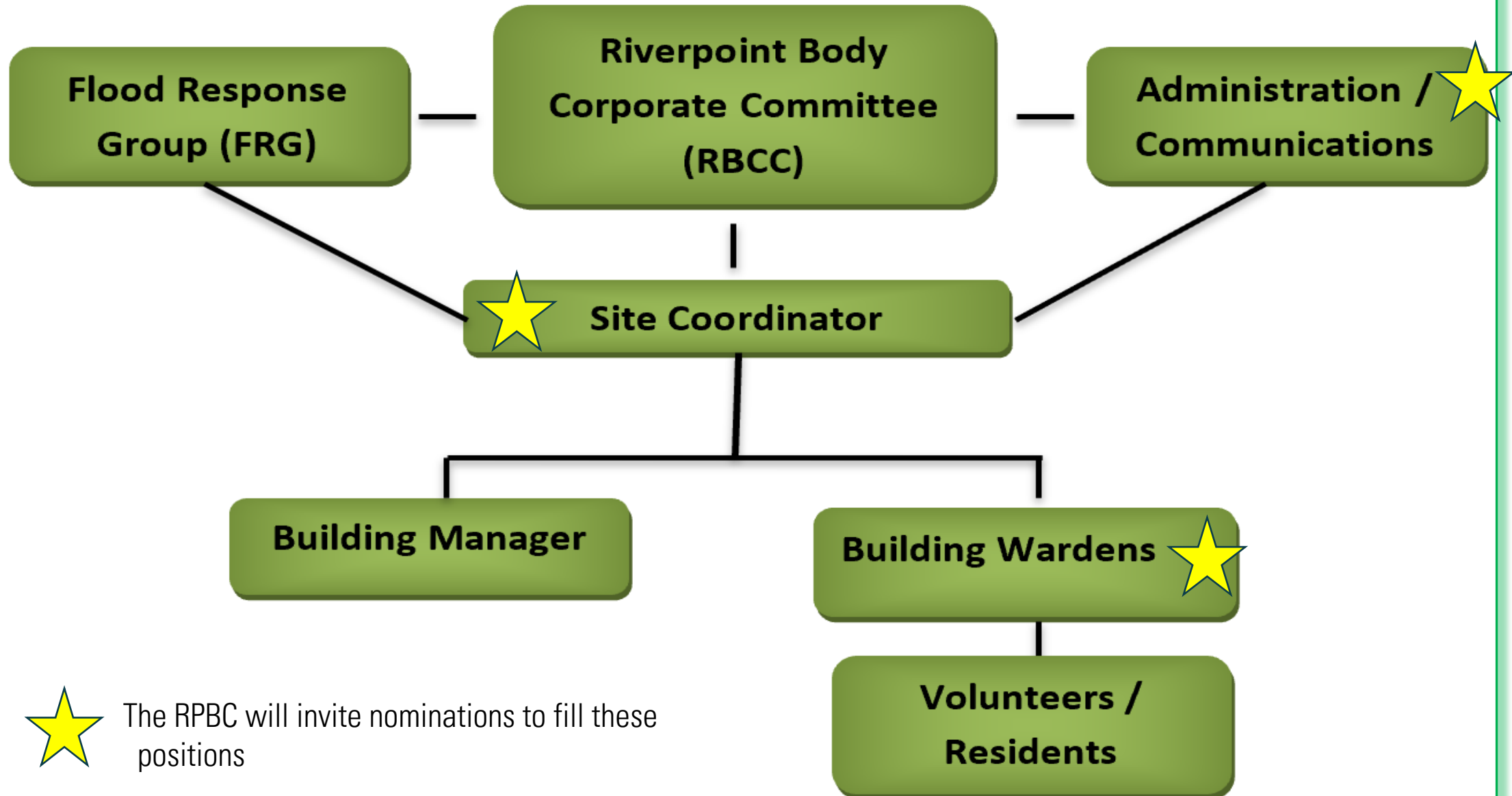


Why Prepare?

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ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES – We are all in this together!



Prevention & Planning



KNOW YOUR BUILDING:

- Vulnerabilities; Assets; Capabilities; Equipment
- Planning and preparation leading up to the wet season

KNOW YOUR PLAN:

- Form the team & get up to speed with the Plan
- Check the operational procedures/ ensure maintenance checks are done
- Have a “dry run” with the key personnel

KNOW YOUR RESIDENTS:

- Important for the Building Manager to have contact information for all residents
- Building Wardens to be familiar with the residents in their allocated buildings
- Are there any residents with Special Needs; Require Mobility Assistance; Require Power?

RIVERPOINT FLOOD EMERGENCY - RESIDENT CARD

PREPARE	RESPOND	RECOVER
• Complete a Resident Information Form & send it to the Building Manager. • Prepare a Personal Emergency Plan. • Submit a Personal Emergency Plan with the Building Manager if you require mobility assistance or have special needs. • Prepare a home emergency kit – what do you need if you stay onsite or if you leave? Ensure you have adequate supplies of non-perishable food, bottled water & medications. • Ensure basement storage areas are tidy, unwanted items are removed prior to the wet season & remaining items are stored in appropriate containers. • Before you go away on holidays – ensure a friend, family member or onsite contact has your details & access to keys (apartment, storage cage & vehicles) to assist in removing items for safe storage if necessary. • If going on holidays - consider moving valuable items from storage prior to leaving. • If onsite during a pending event - remove your personal belongings & vehicles from the basement garage. Offer assistance to other residents who may not be able to physically move their own vehicles & belongings. • Assist Building Wardens to prepare the building/sandbag/install equipment. • Prepare for living onsite with/without power & lifts, organize alternative refrigeration for food & leave your mailbox empty and unlocked. • Have a plan about where you can go in the event of an evacuation: friends/family/community shelter? • Register for early warnings of severe weather events on Brisbane City Council's website: bswa.brisbane.qld.gov.au	• Ensure you are receiving / checking communications during an event (onsite public announcements, emails, sms & social media). • Continue to monitor information about the weather & forecasts on public broadcasts. • Check that all of your personal belongings/vehicles are secure & out of vulnerable areas. • Offer assistance to other residents that may need it - check on the welfare of others, offer to get groceries, help to charge mobile phones/devices. • Follow all directions issued by the Body Corporate, Building Wardens & Site Coordinator to ensure the safety & security of the building and residents. • Volunteer for rosters that may be set up (eg. the security roster for the building & personal belongings stored on podium areas). • Ensure you follow all directions for the disposal of rubbish as the bin chute may be locked & the skips moved to the street. • Follow all directions for the use of communal facilities like the recreation room (power hub), pools & gyms. • If an evacuation is required, this will be coordinated in conjunction with Qld Police, Qld Fire & Emergency Services & the Riverpoint Site Coordinator.	• Once the emergency is declared as over the recovery process may take some time depending on factors such as how high the water level was, what infrastructure was damaged, whether power is connected, and how long pumps/generators will need to be running for (including through the night). There may not be access to carparks, storage cages or other areas of the complex for an extended period. Please be patient during this time. • The clean-up process will be advised to all residents via public announcements & communication channels. • Volunteer to help with the cleanup process. • Follow all directions from the Body Corporate, Building Wardens & Site Coordinator. • Ensure your personal safety & the safety of others - wear appropriate PPE & footwear (flood water is likely to be contaminated). • Assist other residents who may not be able to easily access food, power & water, & ask for assistance from other residents if you need it - advise your Building Warden what you need. • Follow directions for returning vehicles / belongings to the basement & storage cages.

RIVERPOINT FLOOD EMERGENCY - RESIDENT CARD

USEFUL RESOURCES:

Person – Centred Emergency Preparedness Workbook (P-CEP):

https://collaborating4inclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-19-Person-Centred-Emergency-Preparedness-P-CEP-WORKBOOK_FINAL.pdf



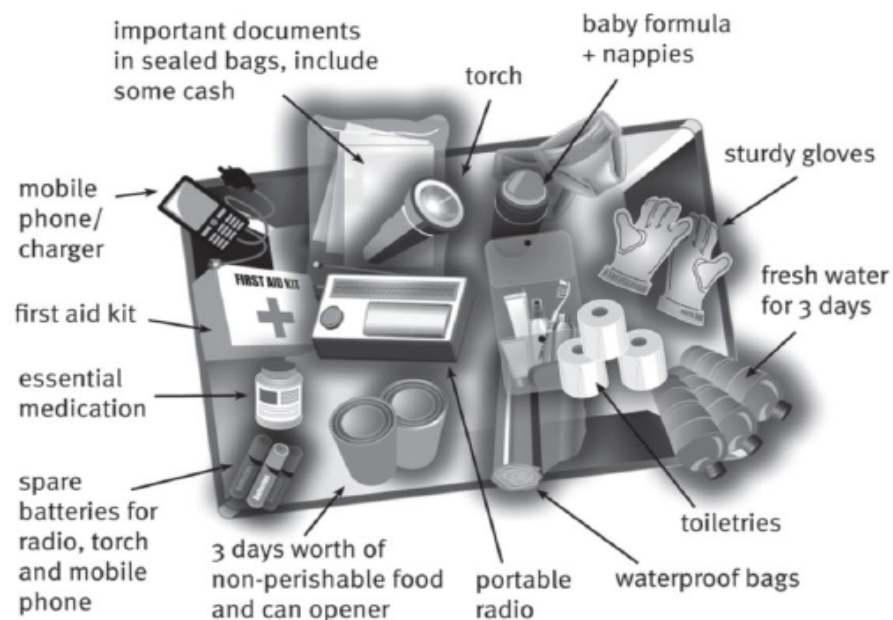
BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE – COMMUNITY AND SAFETY/DISASTERS

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-and-safety/community-safety/disasters-and-emergencies>

RIVERPOINT EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Organisation/Service	Name	Phone number
Emergency services	Fire/police/ambulance	000
Police	West End Police Station	0738 409 100
Policelink	Alerts police cars nearby	131444
Local Government/Stormwater	Brisbane City Council	0734038888
State Emergency Services (SES)		132500
Water Supply and Sewerage	Urban Utilities	132364
Poison information line		131126
Electricity	Energex	136262
Riverpoint Reception	Office	0738 465 099
Riverpoint after hours service (automatic diversion for D Wilson)	Nitel	1300 364 835
Security	First Response	1300 733 500

WHAT SHOULD I PACK IN AN EMERGENCY KIT?



Stay Current



Don't "Set & Forget" the Flood Mitigation Plan

- Review Annually or as needed / Improve after an event or when procedures/ mitigation works are undertaken
- Plan for future improvements to make the building more resilient – funds to improve protection measures of lifts/ vulnerable equipment/replacing or purchasing better equipment

Take Ownership of the Plan

- Start annual preparation of building prior to wet season – clean up storage areas (arrange a junk, rubbish collection) collect sandbags
- Check equipment is ready and how to start/use
- Check Emergency boxes are complete/reinstated if used

Transfer Knowledge

- Ensure all stakeholders are aware of the plan
- Ensure Key Personnel are inducted to the plan including incoming Body Corporate Committee members; Building Manager; Site Coordinator/ Building Wardens
- Update new residents

Closing Thoughts - Why This Matters



- Apartment buildings are essential to service growth but high risk on flood plains
- Building-level preparedness reduces demand on emergency services – **KNOW YOUR BUILDING**
- Community-led flood planning is low-cost and high-impact
- Aligns with QLD Disaster Management Act, QSDMP & NDRRF
- Risk mitigation through the approval, design and delivery period is critical
- Transparency of statutory authority flood response procedures is needed
- Regulation should follow the principles applied in fire safety – with pre and post development certification of built form and risk management procedures
- Managed handover of assets to Body Corporates must be prioritised in planning regulations

Speaker Introductions

Dr Elise Remling

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Environmental Governance

University of Canberra

Dr Sophie Yates

Senior Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy

Australian National University

Building Resilience at Home: Kitchen Table Conversations for emergency preparedness



Photo: S. Yates, 2025



Dr Elise Remling (UC)

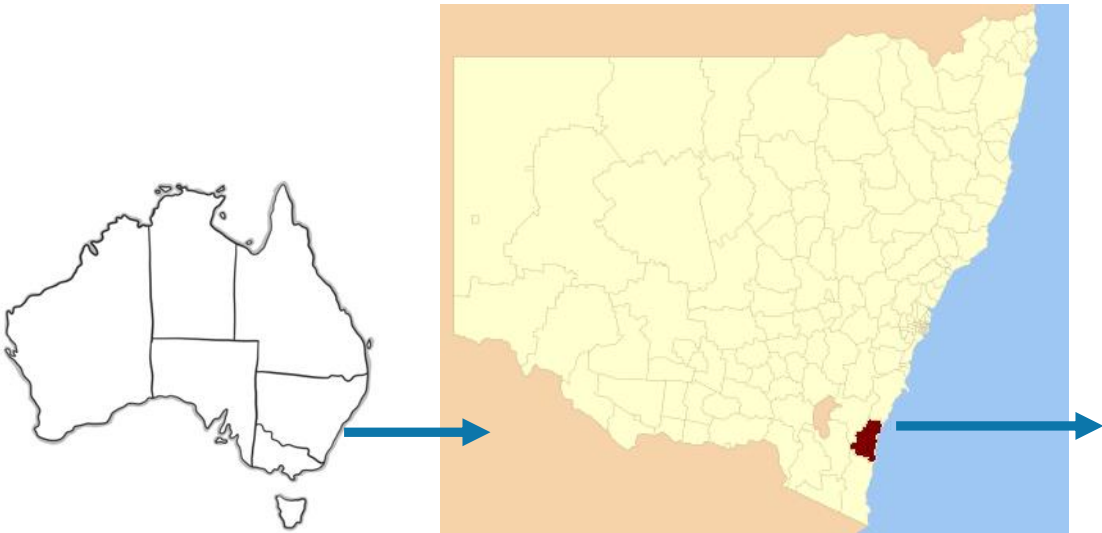
Dr Sophie Yates (ANU)

Dr Katie Moon (UNSW Canberra)



Photo: E. Remling, 2022

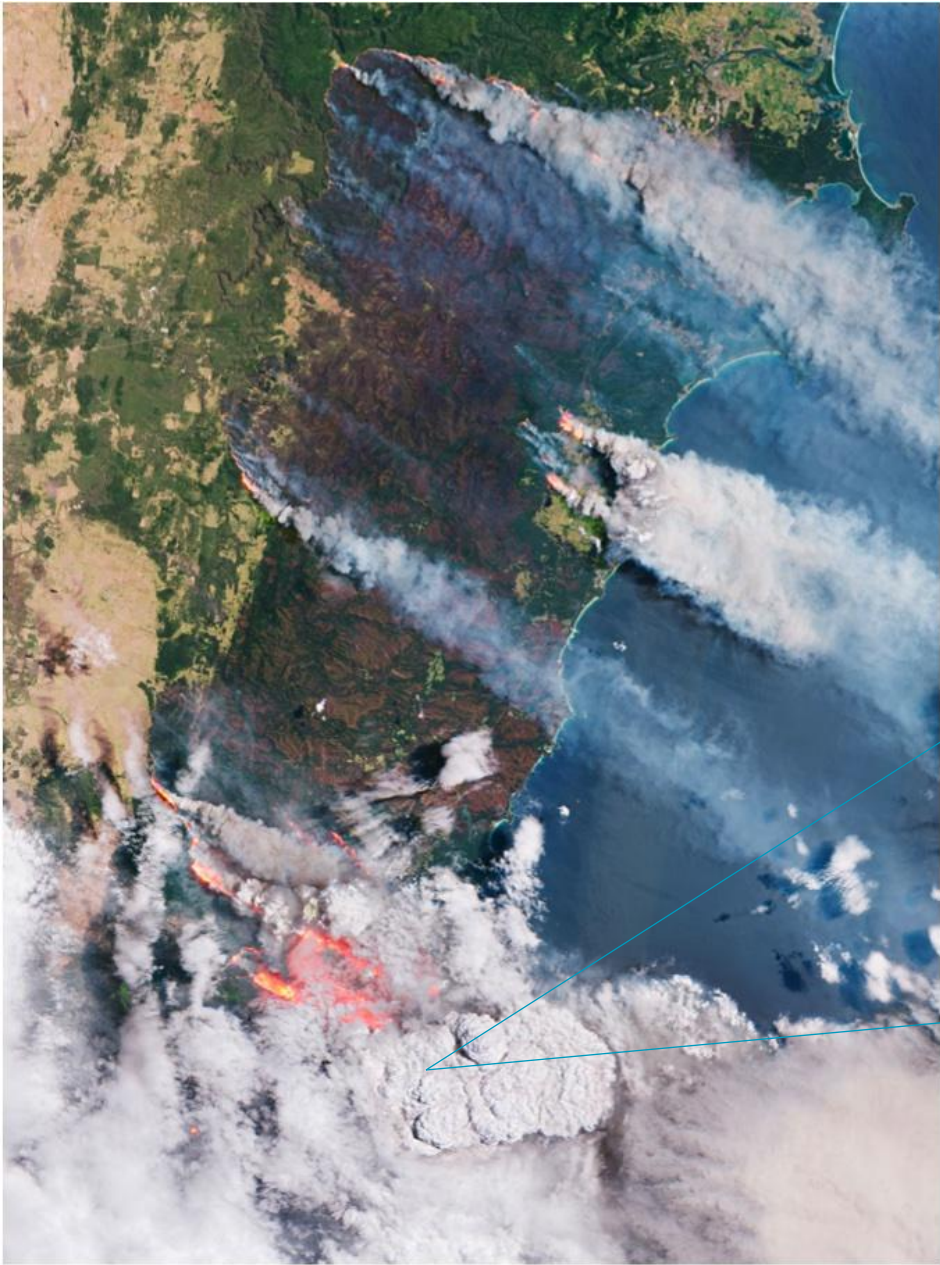
Eurobodalla Shire



Source: Eurobodalla Local Emergency Management Plan



Photos: E. Remling, 2022



A lived experience informed approach (Hawke et al. 2022)



Photos: E. Remling, 2019



Table 1 – Destroyed and damaged buildings during the 2019-20 fire season

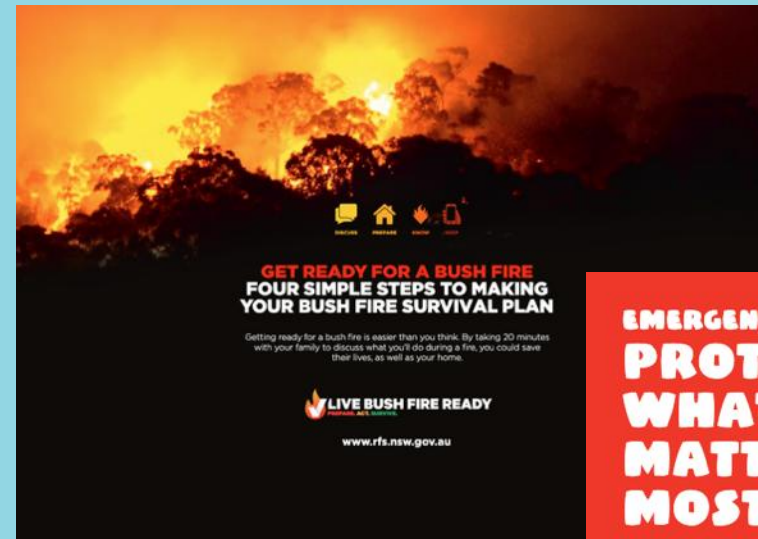
Area	House Destroyed	Facility Destroyed	Outbuilding Destroyed	House Damaged	Facility Damaged	Outbuilding Damaged	Total
Central Coast	176	14	399	98	21	185	5,055
Central Ranges	69	4	145	32	14	78	1,935
Greater Sydney	125	28	367	58	15	176	4,802
North Coast	388	22	944	135	29	362	6,847
Northern Ranges	164	14	231	44	10	84	2,074
Riverina	8	0	23	4	0	9	185
South Coast	1,261	150	2,569	576	86	860	15,418
Southern Ranges and Alpine	285	52	881	87	21	263	5,368
Grand Total	2,476	284	5,559	1,034	196	2,017	41,684

Source: NSW Government 2020: NSW Bushfire Season Outlook 2020-2021, p. 9.



Source: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=e1f95c3e0c974397ac95e76928d6c73a>

Preparedness – a 'shared responsibility'



**EMERGENCIES HAPPEN:
PROTECT
WHAT
MATTERS
MOST**



Emergency Kit Checklist

For emergency assistance during a flood, storm or tsunami, call **NSW SES on 132 500**.
In a life-threatening emergency, call **Triple Zero (000)**.

 Food, water & essentials ☐ Emergency Plans (incl. pets & animal plans) ☐ Emergency contact list ☐ Radio (incl. spare batteries) ☐ Non-perishable food & water (incl. can opener) ☐ First aid kit	 Personal items ☐ Toiletries (e.g. soap, dental care, toilet paper, sanitary items & sunscreen) ☐ Bedding (e.g. sleeping bags & blankets) ☐ Protective equipment (e.g. gloves, masks & glasses) ☐ Whistle (to signal for help) ☐ Clothing & footwear (incl. underwear)
 Important documents (Save copies to the cloud or a storage device) ☐ Photo IDs & passports ☐ Proof of address (e.g. lease or utility bill) ☐ Insurance policies ☐ Certificates (e.g. birth, marriage & wills)	 Pet supplies ☐ Ownership & ID (microchip details & photo) ☐ Food & water (incl. bowls) ☐ Lead, harness & other accessories
 To help you leave quickly ☐ Cash (ATMs & EFTPOS may not work) ☐ Local maps (to navigate road closures) ☐ Spare keys (for your home & vehicles)	 Add these before you leave ☐ Digital devices (e.g. phones, laptops & tablets) ☐ Chargers, power banks & hard drives ☐ Personal valuables (e.g. photo & jewellery) ☐ Baby supplies (incl. formula, nappies & wipes) ☐ Medications for 5 days (incl. Medicare card & prescriptions)
 Health & wellbeing ☐ Medical & ID bracelets (for health conditions) ☐ Entertainment (books, games, toys & headphones)	
 In case of a power outage ☐ Candles & matches ☐ Torch (incl. spare batteries)	

For more information, visit ses.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

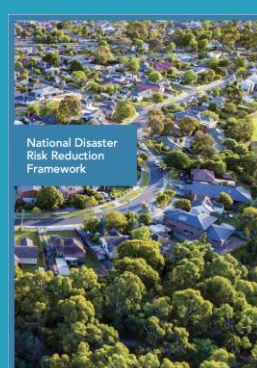
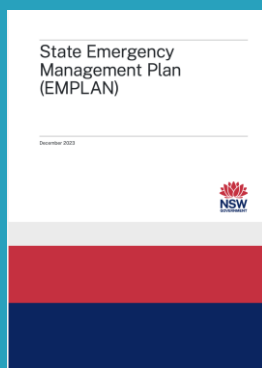
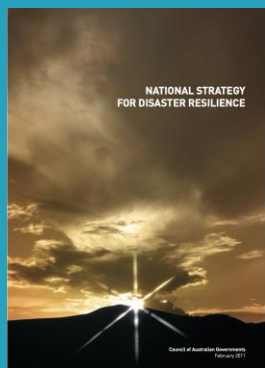


Your Emergency
RediPlan

redcross.org.au/prepare

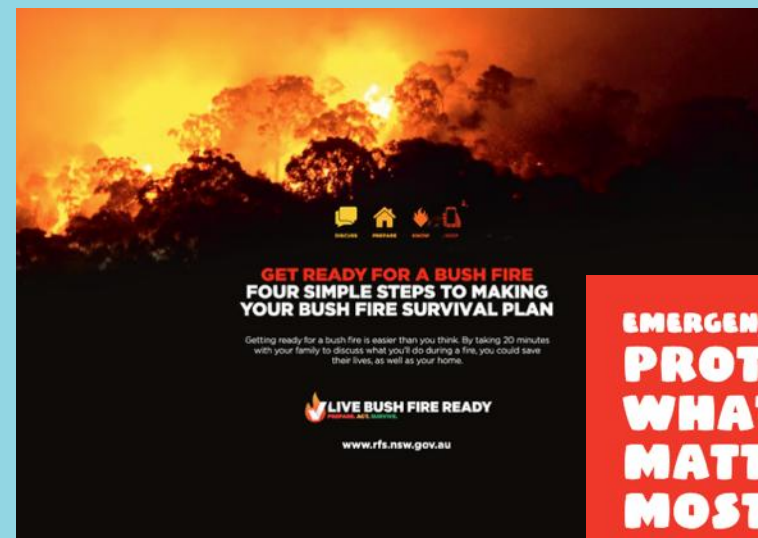


Preparedness – a ‘shared responsibility’



Binskin Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020: 247)

‘[f]ire and emergency services only have finite resources, which means that individuals, particularly in natural disaster prone areas, need to plan and act on the basis that help might not arrive during a disaster’.



Household preparedness in Australia

ABC Emergency

Thu 31 July

Sydney
Change location

13°C Now
Feels like 9°

Planning & AdviceIncident Map

Don't be one of the 90% of Australians without an emergency plan. Get ready now.



 Australian Red Cross

AboutGet helpAct for humanityWays to donateStories

Home > Media centre > Media releases > 2024 > EmergencyRedi Week

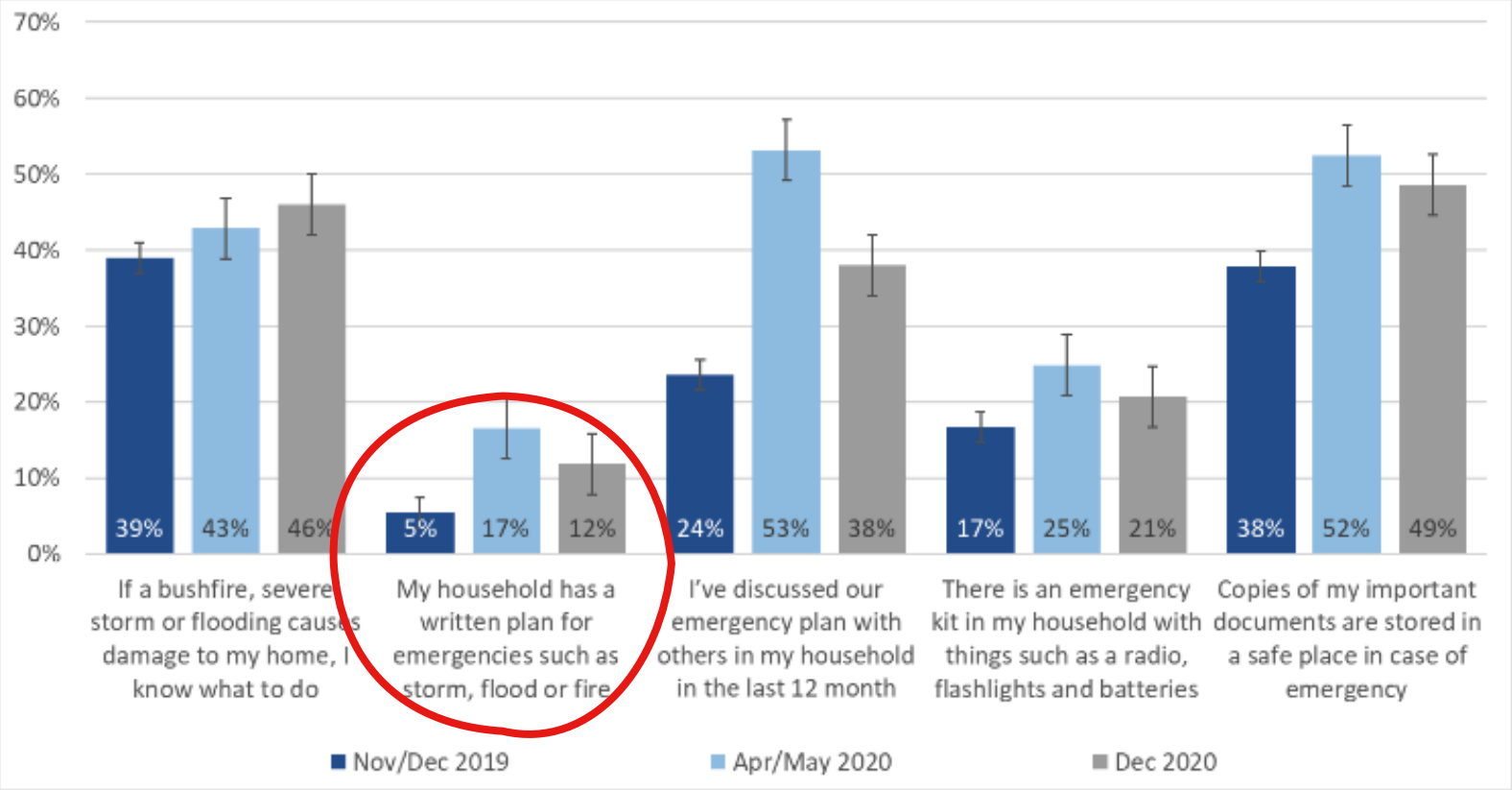
Emergencies on the rise but Aussie families not prepared

16 September 2024

Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi Week 16–22 September 2024

Australian families are being urged to get prepared this EmergencyRedi Week with new data showing an increase in prevalence and intensity of emergencies, yet only one in three (34%) households have talked to their children about being practically prepared, and even less (27%) about how to mentally prepare.

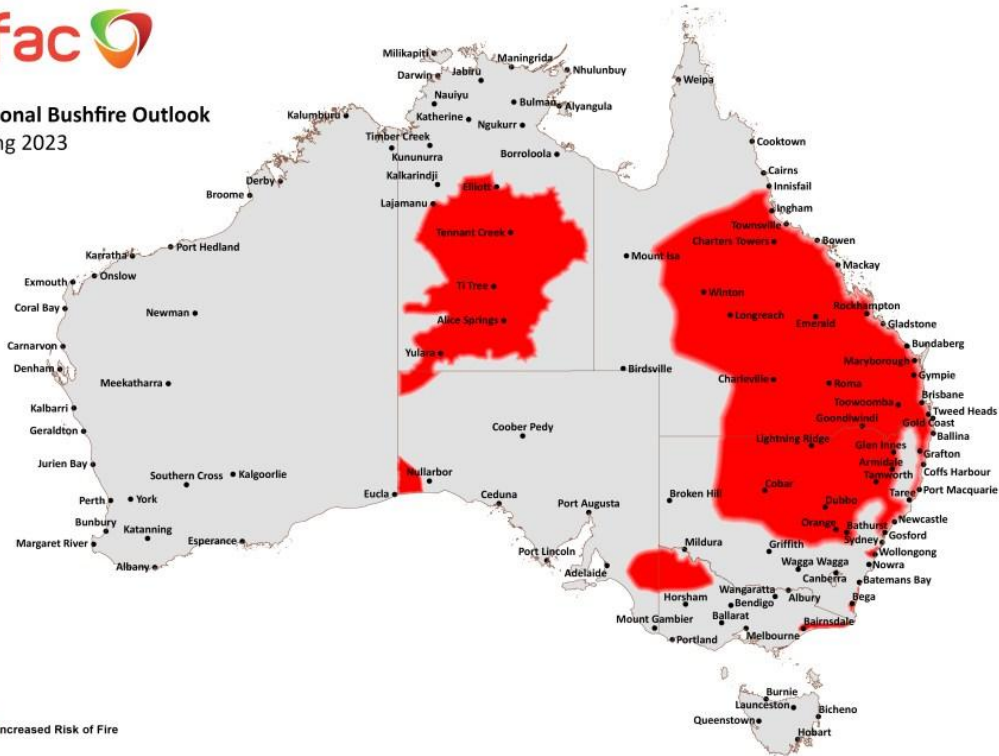
Household preparedness in the ACT



“While preparedness is highest in areas of Canberran that were at greatest risk from the bushfires (in particular Tuggeranong South) there are many households in this region that do not have an emergency plan or other forms of preparedness in place”

Schirmer and Mylek 2022, p. 90

Figure 29 Engagement in emergency preparation activities, ACT adults, 2019 to 2020 Schirmer and Mylek 2022, p. 88



Map: AFAC, 2023



🕒 This article is more than 3 years old

NSW Far South Coast fire danger rating upgraded to catastrophic as schools remain closed

By Floss Adams By James Tugwell ABC South East NSW Bushfires

Posted 19 Sep 2023 at 9:24am, updated 19 Sep 2023 at 11:28pm



A grass fire has been burning at Eden today. (Supplied: Ben Bright)

'Worst risk since black summer': NSW south coast fire danger upgraded to 'catastrophic'

Residents warned to be prepared on Tuesday as weather bureau predicts Wednesday could be even hotter with extreme fire danger

Conversations at the kitchen table



Photo: S. Yates, 2025

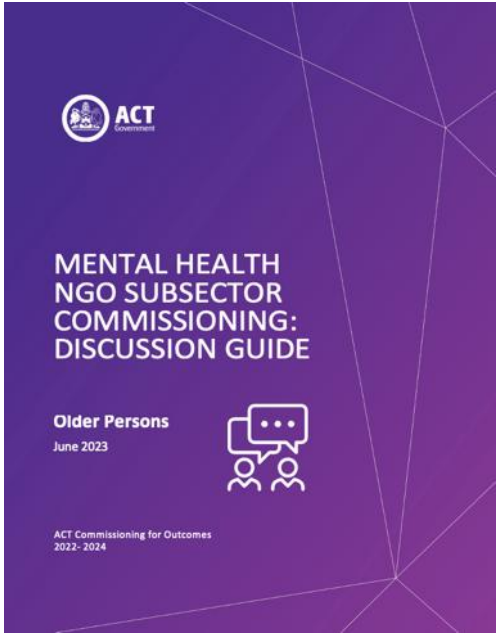
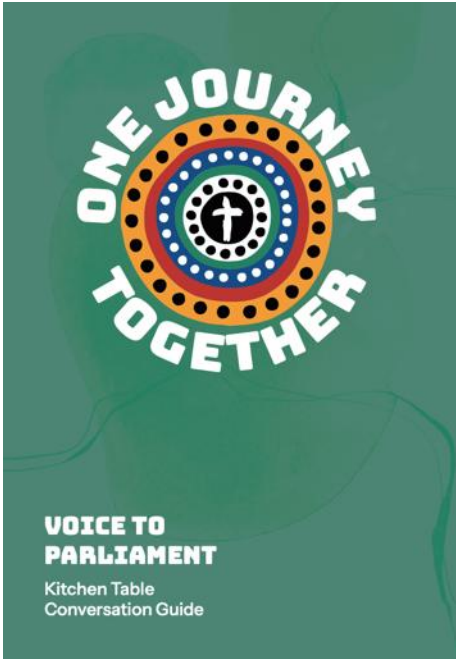
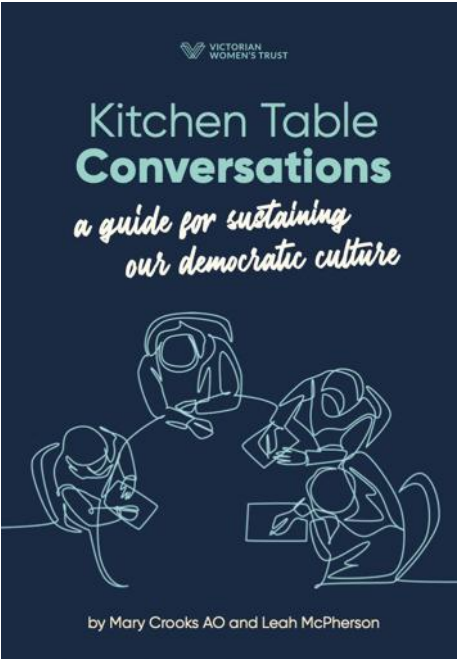
Conversations at the kitchen table



Photo: S. Yates, 2025

- Structured, purposeful conversation (Sarkissian et al. 2008; Green & McClam 2020)
- Small, informal meeting that takes place in someone's home
- No experts or professional facilitators
- Active participation from all group members

KTC - Practical examples



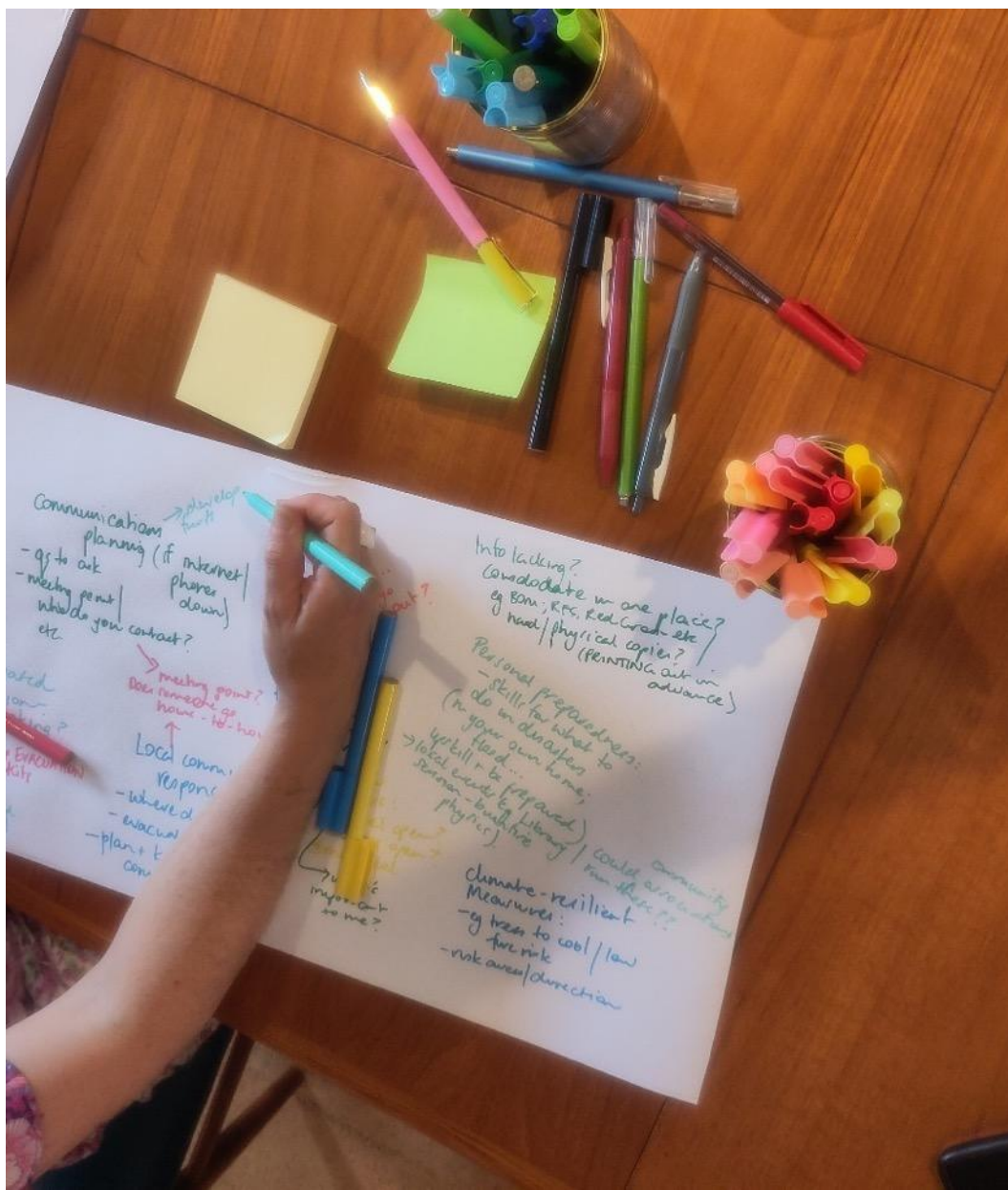
HELPING TO CREATE A DISABILITY STRATEGY FOR THE ACT

A KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION KIT

WHAT'S IN THE KIT?	
1 About the kit and how to use it to host a Kitchen Table Conversation	1
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Research methods

- Integrating lived experience with social science literature
 - Review of literature, grey literature, existing tools
- Co-designing tools and the KTC model
- Two KTC-style pilot workshops in the Eurobodalla (n=12)
 - Recruiting participants based on existing peer networks
 - Participants across 4 towns/townships and small rural properties
- Qualitative data analysis



[illegible]

What if...?P Stress test/contingency planning

During emergencies things rarely go exactly as planned, so some level of flexibility is essential. This resource aims to spark important conversations about how to respond when unexpected things happen. Is your emergency plan robust enough? How will you adapt your plan? These 'What if...?' scenarios aren't meant to frighten you or be exhaustive—rather, they are starting points to help you think critically about your plan and consider different possibilities that might occur so you can be better prepared. Remember to consider the possibility of multiple challenges occurring simultaneously. Pick up more scenarios and discuss how you might adjust your plan to respond: e.g. is there an alternative route you can take, an alternative place you can go to?

Social and system dependencies

- Can't find my pet
- Child/parent
- Someone refuses to leave
- You're not at home when it's raining
- You're injured or unwell
- Car won't start, has no fuel, can't find keys
- You're confined in a tree
- No mobile reception (can't access alerts, updates)
- Can't charge devices
- No power
- Road is closed
- Infrastructure fails
- Water supply cuts off
- No official shelter/evacuation
- Drive in poor visibility
- It's dark or raining heavily
- Don't have more fuel
- Phone/food, more fuel, the supplies
- Tree falls and blocks your way
- The road to your kids school/ daycare is blocked
- Emergency services are delayed
- Neighbour who helps isn't home
- You have visitors staying with you
- You need to help neighbour who has been injured
- Can't contact family or friends
- Multiple routes are blocked
- Someone refuses to leave
- It's raining heavily

Immediate personal obstacles

Infrastructure fails

Environmental stressors

Environmental stressors

This resource was inspired by the Kuring-gai Council Climate Wise Communities 'What if' Scenario

Evolving tools example: Household preparedness

a

b

c

d

Household preparedness

This checklist is designed to support you in making decisions in the face of increasing threat. Pre-season activities are done during the months when extreme events are not an immediate risk; threat likely is during the hazard season; threat in area is when activity is in the local area; threat escalating is when evacuation might be likely.

Threat level	Activity checklist	Grab & go bag*
Pre-season	Develop written household emergency plan**	
	Gather important documents***	
	Check insurance is current and adequate	
	Take photos of house and valuables, store safely	
	Back up files on hard drive or cloud	
	Write down frequency of local ABC radio and essential contact numbers	
	Make list of sentimental items (photos, jewellery, heirlooms, art)	
	Trim large trees and vegetation (especially near house)	
Threat likely	Clean gutters/drain, fix any leaks in roof and clear rubbish/clutter from around house	
	Fill up/charge car (do not let drop below half) and check car key battery	
	Get grab & go bag ready and pack sentimental items	✓
Threat in area	Withdraw cash and shop for any missing essential items	
	Sort pet essentials (food, leash, carrier/cage, bowls)	
	Charge all devices and battery packs	
Threat escalating	Check in with neighbours and family (let them know your plan)	
	Move items inside/flammable items away from house	
	Fill buckets and bathtub with water in case water supply stops	
Threat escalating	Pack final things for evacuation (in car)	
	Park car ready to leave	
	Keep kids and pets nearby	
	Shut off utilities (water, gas, electricity)	
Threat escalating	Look doors and windows and secure properly	

Notes

*Tick this box if you intend to take this item with you in the event of an evacuation. List this item in the corresponding box of the Grab & go bag checklist.

**Look up the Red Cross RediPlan for a good guide on writing an emergency plan. At a minimum discuss and write down: when to leave, where to go, how to get there, what to take, who to tell and what your backup plan is.

***Including ID card/passport, will & power of attorney, drivers' licence, marriage & birth certificates, land titles, mortgage papers, insurance papers (house, contents, car, life), medical histories, immunisation books

Group tool example

Climate Pods

Resources

Pod resources & skills

This resource helps you identify and list the key skills and resources available within your support network that can be used during an extreme event. You might be surprised to discover that when pooled together, your group possesses a wealth of valuable capabilities. Taking inventory now makes your community more self-sufficient and less dependent on external assistance. While outside help may eventually arrive, knowing how you can support each other in the meantime strengthens your collective resilience.

Resources	Pod member/s with resource	Skills	Pod member/s with skill
Caravan		First aid & CPR training	
Garden tools		Handling chainsaws	
Ladders		Psychological first aid	
Camping/sleeping gear		Camping skills	
Generator		Leadership	
Fuel		Project management	
Chainsaw		Organisation/logistics	
UHF radio		Cooking/food handling	
Boat/kayak		Childcare/entertainment	

Notes

- Consider if there are specific trainings available to you that might be useful to partake in.

Workshop learnings

- “Hold our hands!”
 - Pre-fill as much as possible
- Group-level tools not always intuitive
 - Phased approach, starting with individual resources → group
- Scaffolding
 - Explain the resources and how to use them

Kitchen table conversations for disaster preparedness

Introduction

Here is how you can get started with kitchen table conversations on disaster preparedness. Start by discussing your individual household preparedness in a group setting and progress through to things like planning working bees, group emergency plans, and crisis communication strategies.

Step 1: Before the first group meeting

- Self assessment: what are the main risks in your local area (e.g. fire, flood, storm, heatwave, cyclone)?
- Work through individual checklists - if you want to start slow, pick 3 of these:
 - Household preparedness
 - Equipment & supplies
 - Grab & go bag
 - Food rations
 - Health & first aid



Step 3: Individual follow-up

- Revise individual checklists based on group discussion
- Complete additional individual checklists you haven't gotten to yet
- Have a chat about them with all members of your household
- Develop a detailed written emergency plan if you haven't yet (see Red Cross 'RediPlan' for a good guide)



Step 5: 3rd meeting - shared planning

- Work through additional group resources you didn't get to



Further steps...

Continue the conversation



Step 2: 1st meeting - shared scoping

- Set principles for good conversations
- Discuss expectations and main risks for your area
- Discuss prefilled individual lists: are there any discrepancies, gaps or challenges for people? What ideas can be shared across households?
- Decide on a host (if you want to rotate) and set another meeting

Step 4: 2nd meeting - shared organising

- Discuss what you want to do as a group, for example:
 - Discuss individual plans in more detail
 - Run through the What if...? Stress test
- Get organised: plan working bees to prepare each other's properties
- Collate shared register of Pod resources & skills
- Discuss Pod communication plans for when systems go down

Step 6: 4th meeting - shared commitment

- Discuss how to continue working together, e.g. meeting every quarter, ahead of the hazard season
- Consider who in your wider community may need assistance in an emergency and how your group can help

A guide for hosting Kitchen Table Conversations for emergency preparedness



Benefits

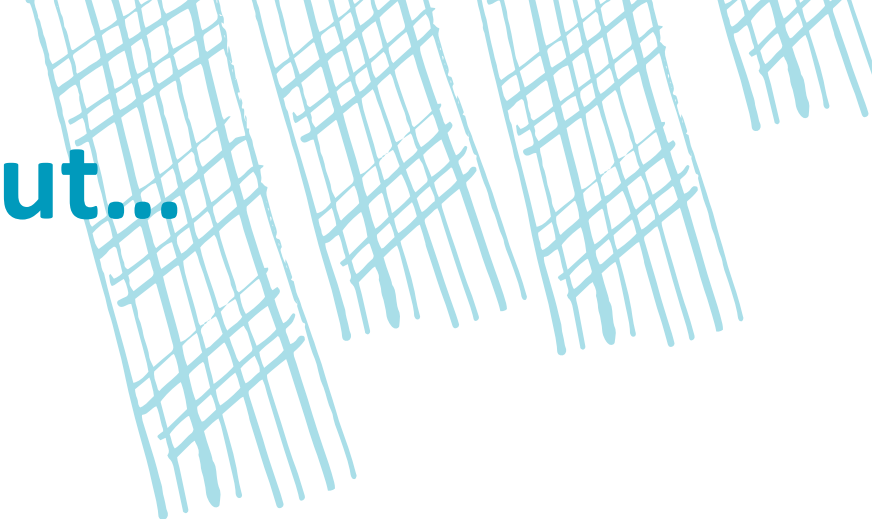
- Trust/ease
 - **Workshop 1 participant:** *I think that the beauty of a pod is that it's your critical care team. **Your most trusted and reliable**, and that's what you need in an emergency setting.*
- Building from individual tools to shared/group activities
 - **Workshop 1 participant:** *I think too doing this individually does generate that conversation when **you do all come together**.*
- Peer learning
 - Understanding emergency service realities

Benefits

- Facing complexities and ambiguities
- Sharing the mental load
 - Ritual narratives

Workshop 2 participant: *...the lack of access to mental health is, yeah, it's awful down here. And so I was really severely traumatised, to the point where a few times, I hallucinated, and I'd be in my bedroom thinking that I was looking out the window thinking that I was seeing a fire, and then my vision would change and I'm like, "oh, [actually] the blinds are closed".*

Challenges – KTCs are valuable but...



- Staying on topic
- Communicating the model
 - Balancing providing enough information while not overwhelming people
- Trade-off between informality and need for structure/leadership
- Making it happen!!
 - You need to be motivated
- Inclusion of those without existing social capital

Key takeaway



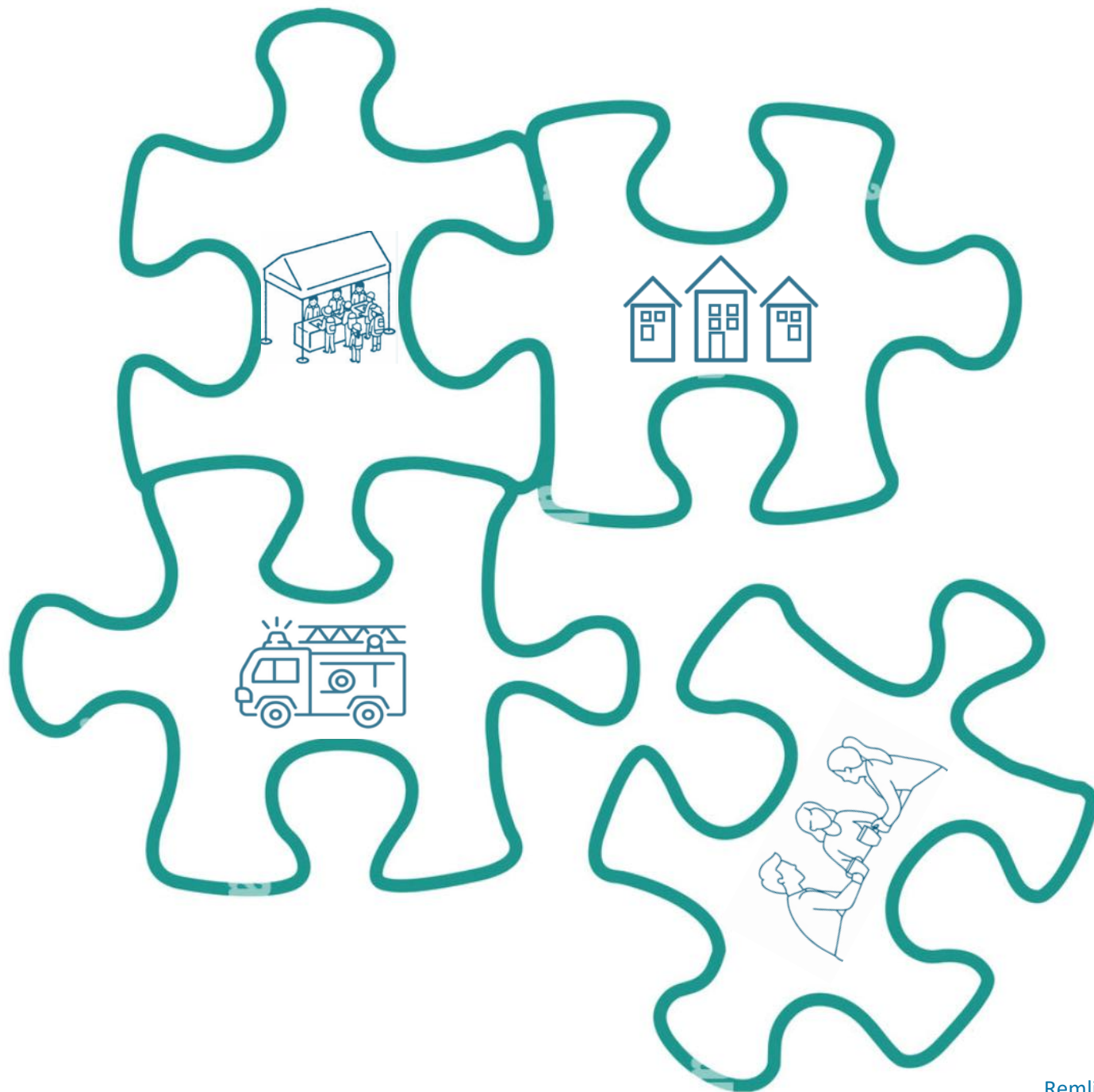
Photo: S. Yates, 2024

Key takeaway

Disaster preparedness as an ongoing, relational process, driven by peer-to-peer exchange, rather than one-off activities, short-term engagement or top-down information transfer.



Photo: S. Yates, 2024



A missing piece in the Australian preparedness puzzle

Find our guide and resources



A guide for hosting Kitchen Table Conversations for emergency preparedness



 Climate Pods

Find our academic paper



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Kitchen table conversations as a social technology for place-based disaster preparedness

Katie Moon ^{a,b}, Elise Remling ^c and Sophie Yates ^d

^aSchool of Business, University of New South Wales, Canberra, Australia; ^bCentre for Ecosystem Science, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; ^cCentre for Environmental Governance, Faculty of Business, Government and Law, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia; ^dCrawford School of Public Policy, College of Law, Governance and Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

ABSTRACT

Disaster preparedness frameworks typically privilege territorially defined communities and household-level responsibility, obscuring the relational dynamics through which preparedness is often enacted in practice. We argue that preparedness is better understood through what we term relational communities of place: socially connected and evolving networks whose relations are shaped by place-based knowing yet not necessarily confined to geographic boundaries. Drawing on lived experience of Australian bushfires, we developed and tested kitchen table conversations (KTCs) as a social technology for grassroots social technology for disaster preparedness. Through six phases spanning informal household discussions to structured conversations in fire-affected New South Wales, KTCs supported the co-design of preparedness grounded in lived, embodied and relational knowledge. Our findings show that preparedness emerges through trust, reciprocity, shared sense-making and practical coordination within relational communities of place – dynamics that formal interventions often struggle to engage. KTCs facilitated the translation of lived experience into staged, threat-responsive materials while also creating space for psychological processing and informal learning. Sustaining such grassroots work, however, requires significant time, emotional labour and resourcing. We argue that disaster management policy must move beyond territorial notions of community to recognise, support and resource relational forms of preparedness already operating within and across places.

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Disaster preparedness; empowerment; kitchen table conversations; lived experience co-design; social capital; Australian Black Summer bushfires; relationality

1. Introduction

Preparedness in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction is consistently articulated as place-based, and with good reason. Frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015) and national strategies in Australia (Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee 2018), the United Kingdom (Cabinet Office 2023) and the United States (FEMA 2024) emphasise the localisation of risk through hazard mapping, neighbourhood-level planning, and programs coordinated by municipal or state agencies (Haughton and White 2018). These approaches recognise that disasters unfold unevenly across landscapes and that effective preparedness requires attention to local conditions, infrastructures and exposures (Willems, Forbes, and Simmons 2021). Organising preparedness through defined spatial units enables coordination across agencies, supports the allocation of resources, and facilitates forms of spatial risk modelling that are central to contemporary governance (Choubin, Jaafari, and Mafi-Gholami 2025; Del Pinto et al. 2024). Yet within these arrangements, place is primarily rendered as territory: a bounded, administratively legible unit aligned with jurisdictional responsibility and program delivery (Carney, Schultz, and Greiner 2025). While such territorialisation makes preparedness governable, it tends to frame place as a site of intervention rather than as a lived and known environment. What is foregrounded are boundaries, zones, and eligibility criteria; place is present and central, but largely through its cartographic and administrative dimensions (Kirschner, Clark, and Boustras 2023; McGowan and Donovan 2021).

CONTACT Katie Moon  katie.moon@unsw.edu.au

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Contact us:

sophie.yates@anu.edu.au

elise.remling@canberra.edu.au

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The University of Canberra acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

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 | Avian Influenza: Implications for community resilience

Tuesday 10 November 2026,
1.00pm-2.00pm AEDT



AIDR Stakeholder survey

We are currently seeking feedback on AIDR's services through our annual stakeholder survey.

This is your opportunity to share your insights and help guide our planning for 2027.

You can complete the survey using this QR code, the link that was emailed to you last week, or the link in the chat.

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