

Direction 2: Get Ready Northern Beaches

Our community understands the risks they face and works together to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from significant disruptions.



The importance of a community that is aware and prepared for shocks and stresses cannot be overstated. We know from recent experiences, and particularly from the Black Summer bush fires, that the ability to protect lives and properties are contingent on the community's capacity for planning ahead and supporting each other to respond in times of crises.

In recent years, Northern Beaches has experienced floods, coastal erosion, landslides, bush fires, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the severity of these shocks, the level of preparedness in the community remains a priority area, with only approximately 42 percent of survey respondents stating they are prepared for major events.

We know that the effects of climate change will increase the frequency, magnitude, and duration of events that it will affect everyone, directly or indirectly. The risks cannot be isolated to specific places and compounding effects emphasises the need for a holistic and collaborative approach.

According to Deloitte Access Economics (2021), natural disasters currently cost the Australian economy over \$38 billion per year with the majority of disaster funding consumed in the recovery phase, with only 3 percent

investment to preparation and mitigation activities (Productivity Commission, 2014).

By 2060, this cost will rise to at least \$73 billion for a low emission scenario and as high as \$94 billion under a high emissions scenario.

The three drivers of this increase are:

- Population growth
- Climate change
- Property value increase.

It's vital we increase investment in prevention and mitigation activities in order to minimise the cascading effects of shock events on our community.

Resilience to natural disasters is extremely important for community to be prepared for the inevitable increasing e.g., storm surges, flooding, bushfires, so preparation is necessary via education, training, developing skills

(SRG Workshop participant)

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Key Priorities

Key Actions

1. Empower our communities to enable them to effectively prevent, prepare, respond and recover from shock events	1a. Continue to support the Emergency Services in delivering community prevention and preparedness campaigns (O)
	1b. Develop a "Get Ready Animals" program to improve the preparedness of owners of domestic and large animals (S)
	1c. Develop a "Get Ready Business" program to ensure local business owners are aware of the risks to business continuity and are able to identify and implement strategies to minimise the negative economic impact of shock events (S)
	1d. Continue to work with vulnerable facilities including aged care facilities, childcare centres and schools to ensure they have plans in place to respond effectively to shock events (O)
2. Increase understanding of the cascading impact of shock events and their interconnectedness with stresses	2a. Undertake local risk assessment to increase understanding of community's awareness of risks, improve response protocols and identify mitigation/adaptation initiatives (S)
3. Focus investment on disaster prevention activities to avoid or minimise the impacts of shock events	3a. Seek to increase natural hazard prevention activities by maximising grant funding opportunities (O)
4. Improve emergency planning and response arrangements to reduce impacts on our community	4a. Work with the emergency service organisation and supporting agencies to continue to improve emergency planning and response arrangements to reduce impacts on our community (O)
	4b. Continue to strengthen Council's Incident Management and Business Continuity arrangements (O)
	4c. Invest in technologies that improve access to natural hazard and emergency information, monitoring and forecasting capability (S-M)
5. Further develop local disaster recovery arrangements to ensure our community is able to recover from significant shock events	5a. Prepare a Northern Beaches Recovery Plan in line with the requirements of the NSW Recovery Plan and Toolkit (S)
6. Increase regional resilience through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities with regional partners	6a. Actively engage with Councils in the region to build relationships and capability, and establish resource sharing arrangements to build regional capacity (S-M)

Links to Existing Plans and Strategies

