



# How can business share responsibility for disaster resilience?

Susan Hunt and Michael Eburn

Australian National University

Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre

# Business has recognisable involvement in:

- Disaster relief and recovery
  - Black Saturday fires 2009
  - Queensland floods 2010-11

# ..and plays a critical role in the economy

## ▶ Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs):

- ❑ employ 70 % of the Australian labour force
- ❑ Contribute 55% of Australian business output
- ❑ 1/3 total funding for research and development in high-tech industries

## ➤ 'Big business'

- ❑ contributes 50 % of total revenue
- ❑ Employs 80 % of people in the workforce

..has some involvement in relief,  
response and recovery planning

- Business Continuity Planning - focuses on business risks
- State and territory emergency plans - have variable formal business involvement.



# ...but has a less recognisable role as a partner in disaster resilience

- State and territory emergency plans - have variable formal business involvement.
- The National Critical Resilience Strategy and Trusted Information Sharing Network- organisational resilience on a large scale.
- The Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities advocates for more investment in disaster risk mitigation.

# Public-Private Partnerships

*‘There is potential in Australia to expand the use of public-private partnerships’ (KPMG 2015).*

*‘This applies particularly to all phases of planning and responding to large-scale natural disasters’ (National Research Council 2011 in Chen et al. 2013).*

# The Insurance industry is a key player in the business sector with a role in disaster resilience

- *uptake of adequate insurance coverage*
- *insurance products that provide incentives to mitigate risk*
- *market conditions and government regulations apply but more transparency would help*

# Not forgetting that

- Successful partnerships need relationships based on trust, and
- Shared and open access to information builds trust and is facilitated by trust



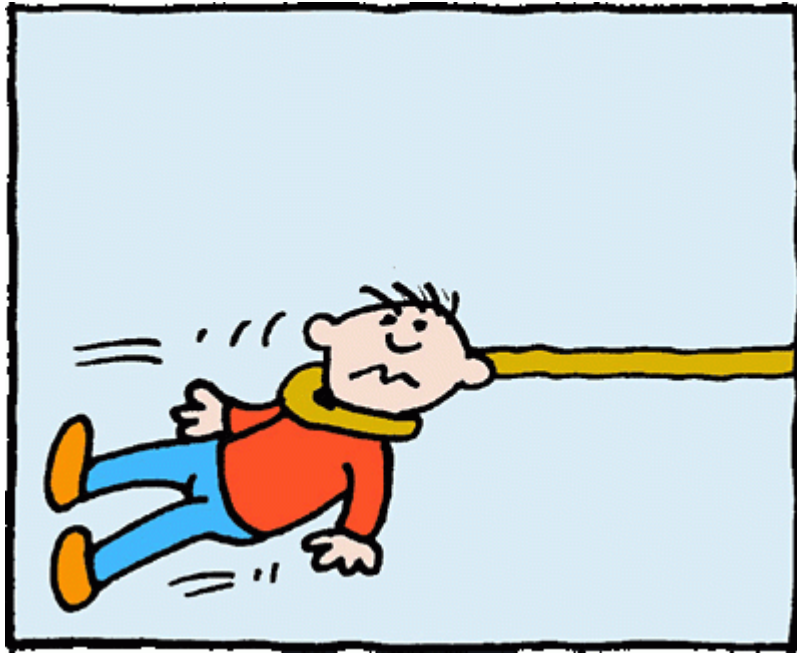
# Doing business with business:

## The new norm in disaster resilience

- Openness to new ideas
- Shared information
- Authentic partnerships built on relationships where trust is the cornerstone



# Questions?



<https://taobabe.wordpress.com/dark-and-light-elements-revisited/>