# **OPTIMISING MITIGATION MEASURES** POLICY AND PLANNING DECISION SUPPORT



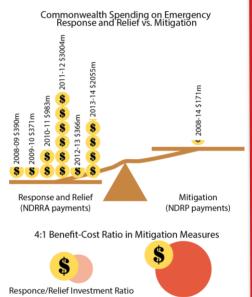
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# WE ARE DEVELOPING A DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF POLICY AND PLANNING INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR OPTIMAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION

#### 1. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS ARE TOO FREQUENTLY EXCESSIVE

The Commonwealth government spent \$7.2 billion over the last six years on recovery and relief. However, mitigation activities before a disaster occurs can be very effective in reducing losses. It is generally accepted that \$1 invested in mitigation can save, on average, around \$4 in recovery costs.



Mitigation Investment Ratio

#### 2. DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING LONG TERM MITIGATION SCHEMES CAN BE DIFFICULT

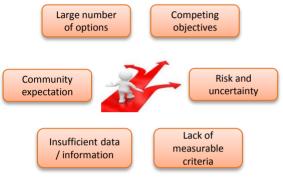
- Decision makers tend to invest in works with clearer short-term benefits.
- Risk attributed to disasters is prone to inaccuracy as disasters are relatively infrequent.
- The people influencing mitigation activities may have little personal experiences to guide their evaluation.
- Mitigation budgets are always limited.

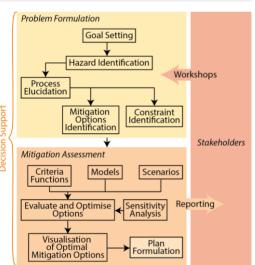
#### 3. DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS (DSS) ENHANCE ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES

- DSSs are transparent and can quantify the expected benefits of mitigation investiture across multiple criteria, and
- DSSs can assess the likelihood and consequences of natural disasters across multiple criteria.

Our DSS will:

- Combine simulation and optimisation techniques.
- Use optimisation to sift through and select mitigation options that result in optimal trade-offs between criteria.
- Use a workshop driven development approach to ensure the system is fit for purpose and to foster system adoption.





### 4. ADVANTAGES OF OUR APPROACH

- Incorporates a spatially-explicit and dynamic land use model.
- Delivers three prototype case study DSSs, the first one being Greater Adelaide.
- Includes a user-friendly interface targeted towards mitigation impact assessment.
- Uses what we know today, and uses advanced computational techniques to make the most of this.
- Uses an integrated approach: (1) Assessment criteria are evaluated across the emergency management cycle. (2) Mitigation options are evaluated for their impact across multiple hazards and multiple scenarios. (3) A multicriteria approach is used so that other community objectives are considered.
- Explicitly considers climate change.
- Deals with uncertainty in a risk-based approach.





