

bnhcrc.com.au

THE AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE INDEX

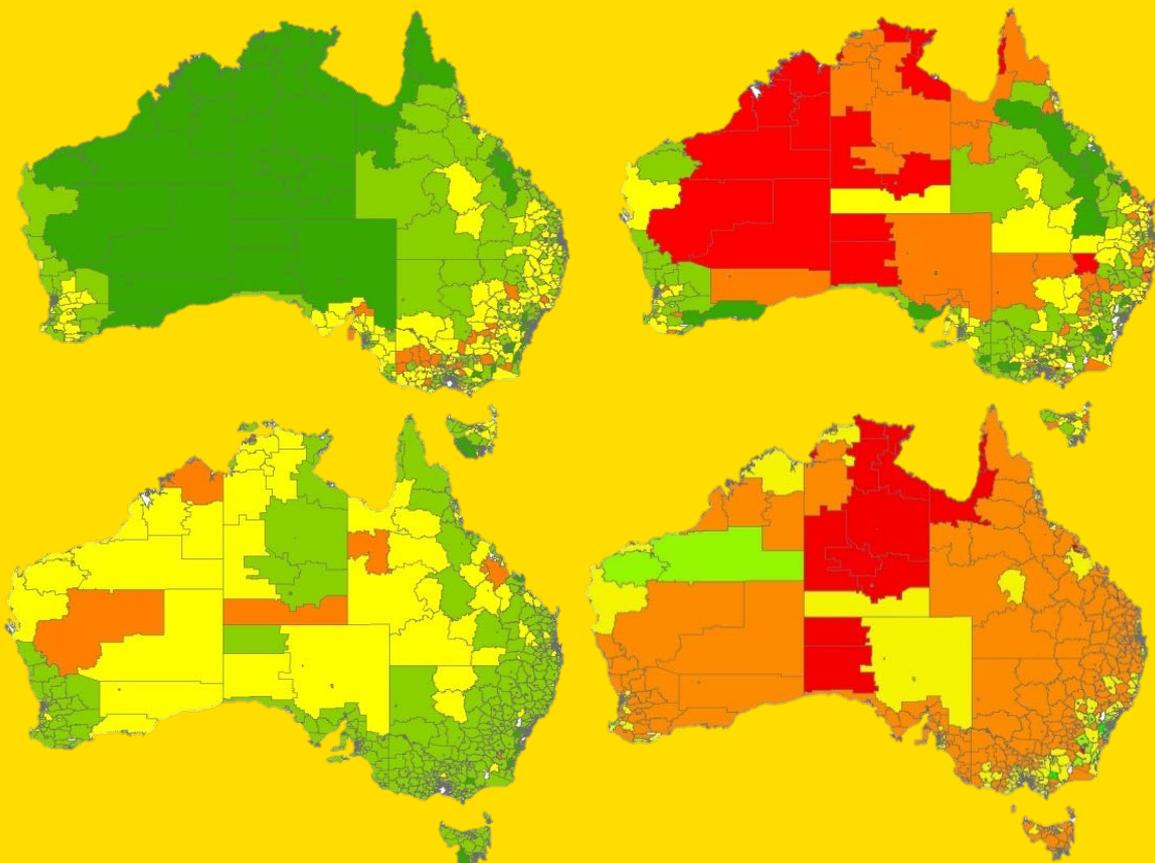
Annual project report 2014-2015

Phil Morley^{1,3}, Melissa Parsons^{1,3}, Graham Marshall^{1,3}, Peter Hastings^{2,3},
Sonya Glavac^{1,3}, Richard Stayner^{1,3}, Judith McNeill^{1,3}, James
McGregor^{1,3}, Ian Reeve^{1,3}

¹ The University of New England

² Queensland University of Technology

³ Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC





Version	Release history	Date
1.0	Initial release of document	26/10/2015



Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International Licence.



Disclaimer:

The University of New England, the Queensland University of Technology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC advise that the information contained in this publication comprises general statements based on scientific research. The reader is advised and needs to be aware that such information may be incomplete or unable to be used in any specific situation. No reliance or actions must therefore be made on that information without seeking prior expert professional, scientific and technical advice. To the extent permitted by law, the University of New England, the Queensland University of Technology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (including its employees and consultants) exclude all liability to any person for any consequences, including but not limited to all losses, damages, costs, expenses and any other compensation, arising directly or indirectly from using this publication (in part or in whole) and any information or material contained in it.

Publisher:

Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC

October 2015

Citation: Morley P, Parons M, Marshall G, Hastings P, Glavac S, Stayner R, McNeill J, McGregor J, Reeve I, 2015, The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index: Annual project report 2014-2015, Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC

Cover: Maps showing different levels of resilience.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
END USER STATEMENT	4
WHY ASSESS DISASTER RESILIENCE IN AUSTRALIA?	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
OUR APPROACH TO DISASTER RESILIENCE	7
AN INDEX TO ASSESS DISASTER RESILIENCE IN AUSTRALIA	10
INDICATOR THEMES	Error! Bookmark not defined.
INDICATORS	12
WHAT WILL THE AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE INDEX LOOK LIKE?	17
REFERENCES	19



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the Problem?

In 2010, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) adopted resilience as one of the key guiding principles for making the nation safer. The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (Australian Government 2011) outlines how Australia should aim to improve social and community resilience with the view that resilient communities are in a much better position to withstand adversity and to recover more quickly from extreme events. The recent Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 also uses resilience as a key concept and calls for a people centred, multi-hazard, multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction. As such each tier of government, emergency services and related NGOs have a distinct need to be able assess and monitor the ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters as well as a clear baseline condition from which to measure progress.

Why is it Important?

Society has always been susceptible to extreme events. While the occurrence of these events generally cannot be prevented; the risks can often be minimised and the impacts on affected populations and property reduced. For people and communities, the capacity to cope with, adapt to, learn from, and where needed transform behaviour and social structures in response to an event and its aftermath all reduce the impact of the disaster (Maguire and Cartwright, 2008) and can broadly be considered resilience. Improving resilience at various scales and thereby reducing the effects of natural hazards has increasingly become a key goal of governments, organisations and communities within Australia and internationally.

How are we going to solve it?

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index project intends to produce a spatial representation of the current state of disaster resilience across Australia. The index will be composed of multiple levels of information that can be reported separately and represented as colour-coded maps where each point will have a corresponding set of information about natural hazard resilience. Spatially explicit capture of data (i.e. in a Geographical Information System) will facilitate seamless integration with other types of information and mapping and allow the use of the project outcomes in the preparation, prevention and recovery spheres. Additionally, the index and indicators will be drawn together as a State of Disaster Resilience Report which will interpret resilience at multiple levels and highlight hotspots of high and low elements of natural hazard resilience.



END USER STATEMENT

Suellen Flint, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Western Australia)

At their best resilient communities are prepared, are able to adapt to changing situations, are connected to each other and are self-reliant.

Recent reports into disasters has identified that government has a responsibility to prepare for emergencies, however these reports also identified the notion of shared responsibility. It is clear that government bears a responsibility to support the community to build the knowledge, skills and importantly protective behaviours that are part and parcel of disaster resilience.

Emergency services support it's communities by building these characteristics in communities. Not a simple task. It involves highly complex forms of engagement based in a raft of community development based research focused on community and individual psychology, decision making under stress, physiology, knowledge exchange and information take up by the community.

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index will be advantageous in many ways and support National and State and local governments. The ability to identify hot-spots of high or low disaster resilience in Australia, and identify areas of strength in coping and adaptive capacity will support the desired outcomes of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Strategy, and potentially help to embed disaster resilience not only into policy and legislation, but to lead to an increase in shared responsibility and resilience across Australia.

I commend the researchers for addressing the challenge in developing the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index.



INTRODUCTION

Broadly speaking, resilience to natural hazards is the ability of individuals and communities to cope with disturbances or changes and to maintain adaptive behaviour (Maguire and Cartwright, 2008). Building resilience to natural hazards requires the capacity to cope with the event and its aftermath, as well as the capacity to learn about hazard risks, change behaviour, transform institutions and adapt to a changing environment (Maguire and Cartwright, 2008). The shift from a risk-based approach to managing natural hazards towards ideas of disaster resilience reflects the uncertainty associated with predicting the location and impacts of natural hazard events, the inevitability of natural hazard events, and the uncertainty of future natural hazard risks in a changing climate and population.

Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience champions a resilience based approach to the challenges posed by natural hazards. Emergency management and other government agencies involved in hazard management are also adopting principles of natural hazard resilience in policies, strategic planning and community engagement (e.g. Queensland Reconstruction Authority, 2012). It is in light of the need to operationalize the concept of disaster resilience that we are developing the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index.

The index is a tool for assessing the resilience of communities to natural hazards at a large scale and is designed to provide input into to macro-level policy, strategic planning and community engagement activities at National, State and local government levels. First, it is a snapshot of the current state of natural hazard resilience at a national scale. Second, it is a layer of information for use in strategic policy development and planning. Third, it provides a benchmark against which to assess future change in resilience to natural hazards. Understanding resilience strengths and weaknesses will help communities, governments and organizations to build the capacities needed for living with natural hazards.

There are two principal approaches to assessing disaster resilience using an index. Bottom-up approaches are locally based and locally driven and are qualitative self-assessments of disaster resilience (Committee on Measures of Community Resilience, 2015). Bottom-up approaches survey individuals or communities using a scorecard consisting of indicators of disaster resilience such as preparation, exposure to specific hazards, community resources and communication (e.g. Arbon, 2014). In contrast, top-down approaches are often intended for use at broad scales by an oversight body (Committee on Measures of Community Resilience, 2015) and use secondary spatial sources such as census data to quantitatively derive indicators that describe the inherent characteristics of a community that contribute to disaster resilience (Cutter et al., 2010). It is important to align the approach used with the purpose of the resilience



assessment because bottom-up and top-down approaches both have a point of spatial or conceptual limitation beyond which conclusions about resilience are no longer valid. A framework that outlines the philosophical underpinnings of a project, linked to the mechanisms used to collect and interpret data, can help to scope and define relevant assessment approaches. A framework is an important tool for a resilience assessment because it defines the boundaries - the why, what and how - around the evidence that we use to derive our assessment of natural hazard resilience.



OUR APPROACH TO DISASTER RESILIENCE

In regards to natural hazards, resilience is the capacity of individuals and communities to cope with disturbances or changes and to maintain adaptive behaviours (Maguire and Cartwright, 2008). This can be viewed as a process that links a set of capacities to a positive trajectory of functioning and adaptation after a disturbance (*sensu* Norris et al., 2008). The ability to learn from experience with a focus on review and adjustment helps to build resilience to future events.

The definition of natural hazard resilience that we adopt for the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index is:

Resilience is the capacity of communities to prepare for, absorb and recover from natural hazard events and to learn, adapt and transform in ways that enhance these capacities in the face of future events.

Implicit in this definition are three important elements of the index. First, we are concerned with capacities – or potential – for resilience, not the actual realization of resilience in a particular hazard event (Norris et al., 2008). However, information about the realization of resilience can be used to validate potential resilience and refine the index components. Second, learning, adaptation and transformation are vital to resilience because they provide a strategic feedback loop back to the capacities of preparation, coping and recovery (Berkes, 2007; O’Neill and Handmer, 2012). Learning, adaptation and transformation are also mechanisms for adjusting responses and behaviour and provide flexibility for facing an uncertain, unpredictable future (Berkes, 2007) and can be proactive for future events, or reactive in response to an event that has already occurred (Handmer and Dovers, 1996; Engle, 2011). Flexibility is an important element of disaster resilience because natural hazard events will continue to occur, but we do not know where, when, or of what magnitude these events will be. Third, while often used interchangeably we use the term natural hazard events rather than natural disasters because with appropriate preparation, natural hazard events can occur but not result in natural disasters (Annan, 2003). However natural disaster is generally a preferable term for communicating with the general public.

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index will assess resilience based on two sets of capacities – coping capacity and adaptive capacity:

- Coping capacity enables people or organizations to use available resources and abilities to face adverse consequences that could lead to a disaster (*sensu* UNISDR, 2009). In a practical sense, coping capacity relates to the factors influencing the ability of a community to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard event.
- Adaptive capacity is the ability of a system to modify or change its characteristics or behaviour to cope with actual or anticipated

stresses (Folke et al., 2002). Adaptive capacity entails the existence of institutions and networks that learn and store knowledge and experience, create flexibility in problem solving and balance power among interest groups (Folke et al., 2002). In a practical sense, adaptive capacity relates to the factors that enable adjustment of responses and behaviours through learning, adaptation and transformation.

Together, these coping and adaptive capacities form the core of our assessment of resilience to natural hazards (Figure 1). Coping capacity and adaptive capacity help to answer the question 'How able is a community to prepare for, respond to and recover from a natural hazard event and return to a satisfactorily functioning state in a timely manner, and to strategically learn and adapt to improve its resilience to future natural hazard events?'

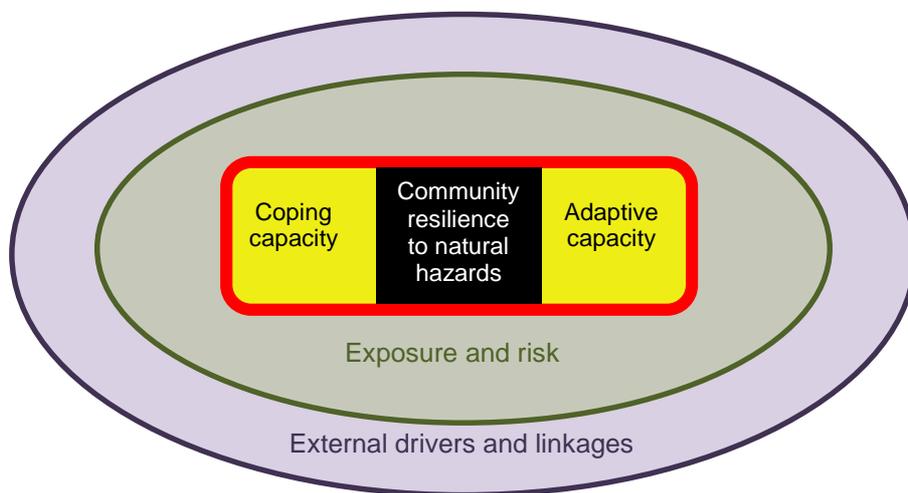


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index.

The conceptual model also reveals how coping and adaptive capacity are not independent of other contextual factors. The first of these contextual factors is risk and exposure. Risk expresses the probability and potential loss from natural hazards. Risk assessment is the process of identifying, analysing, evaluating and treating the risks of natural hazard events. Closely aligned to risk is exposure which is the spectrum of natural hazards that occur at different geographical locations and at different magnitudes. We have deliberately excluded risk and exposure from the assessment of resilience to natural hazards as we intend for the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index to be able to be overlain with risk maps developed as part of risk assessment and planning. Similarly, the index will assume that the capacities that enable community resilience to one type of natural hazard also enable resilience to other types of natural hazards.

The second contextual factor that influences capacities of resilience is external drivers and linkages. External drivers and linkages include



Commonwealth, State and regional policies or legislation in areas such as emergency management, regional development, natural resource management and land use planning. External drivers and linkages also encompass broad conditions that influence the characteristics of communities, such as demographic and economic trends.

It is also important to define what is meant by the term community. A community can be seen as sharing a common place or location, a common interest, or a common attachment (Jenkins, 2013). In this project we take the view that a community shares a common location.



AN INDEX TO ASSESS DISASTER RESILIENCE IN AUSTRALIA

Assessment refers to a qualitative or quantitative process of evaluating the status of some phenomenon of interest. Assessments can be conducted for different purposes including: 1) to gauge or audit the state of a system at one point in time or over time; 2) to assess whether regulated performance criteria have been exceeded; 3) to detect impacts; and, 4) to assess responses to mitigation or restoration (Downes et al., 2002). We take assessment to mean gauging or auditing the state of disaster resilience in a system at one point in time. Resilience to natural hazards can be assessed using indicators of the components of resilience - in this case coping and adaptive capacities - and combined to form an index. An index is a way of summarizing and reporting complex relational measurements about a particular issue. An index should capture change and respond directionally according to the behaviour of the system (Burton, 2015). As such, an index can be arrayed along a continuum of good to poor condition. The status of an index along the continuum can be used as a baseline against which to measure change through time, or change following intervention or treatment.

There are several well-known top-down indexes used in the field of natural hazard assessment. The work of Susan Cutter and her US colleagues began in the 1980s as an index of vulnerability to natural hazards (Cutter et al. 1993), but has evolved further into an index of disaster resilience (Cutter et al., 2008; Cutter et al. 2010). The European emBRACE project reviewed the concepts of resilience and indicators of resilience (Birkmann 2006) and applied these in several case studies of European natural hazard events. Sherrieb et al (2010) assessed capabilities for community resilience in the US Gulf States using a set of resilience indicators. The World Risk Index (Alliance Development Works, 2014) assesses the comparative vulnerability of individual countries to natural hazards using an index approach. We reviewed these (and other) indices and their conceptual bases and concluded that we could not directly adopt an existing top-down, large scale approach to assess disaster resilience in Australia, for several reasons. First, these indices have been developed overseas under different hazard, socio-economic, governance and policy circumstances to Australia. Second, none of the indices were designed to explicitly assess disaster resilience in the way that we conceptualize it - being a set of coping and adaptive capacities. For example, the need for adaptive and flexible organizations has been proposed as an important factor in disaster resilience, but this is often not included in existing indices. However, we do not by any means ignore the important body of assessment research that has come before and there is much overlap in concept, approach and methods between the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index and existing indices. We draw on the philosophical underpinnings and methods of assessment of these existing indexes and incorporate them into our assessment of Australian disaster resilience.



There is also an important difference between an index and indicators. An index conveys the overall status of the issue at hand. It can be reported as one number, or more commonly, as sets of numbers related to themes. These themes should be related to the purpose of the index as described by the underlying philosophical approach – in this case, resilience. Indicators are variables that are used to ‘indicate’, or measure, the status of the theme. Resilience is not always a directly observable phenomenon, particularly in a top-down, large scale approach (Tate, 2012) and proxies can be used to convey an indicator when the relationship between the proxy and the phenomenon of interest is known. In addition, disaster resilience is influenced by many factors, often with complex interactions. Thus, a robust index requires careful design of component indicators. The structural design of an index can be deductive, hierarchical or inductive. The choice of structure depends largely on the formulation of the conceptual framework but the type of structure used can affect the robustness of individual indicators and the overall index (Tate, 2012).

We have used a hierarchical structure for the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (Figure 2). A hierarchical structure allows levels with similar concepts, processes and spatial/temporal organization to emerge. Lower levels can be summarized into higher levels, and higher levels constrain the elements of levels sitting within it. The first level in our hierarchy is made up of the adaptive capacities and coping capacities that make up our conceptual premise of disaster resilience. The second level in our hierarchy is made up of themes that convey the components of adaptive capacity and coping capacity. The third level is comprised of indicator sets that measure the status of a theme. It is possible that one indicator is relevant across different themes or capacities.



Figure 2. The hierarchical structure of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. Indicator themes (blue boxes) and component indicators (orange boxes) are outlined in Section 3.1 and 3.2.



INDICATOR THEMES

Themes divide coping capacity and adaptive capacity into its sub-components. Themes are the factors – related to coping capacity or adaptive capacity – that contribute to community resilience to natural hazards. Themes have a basis in the literature: some with empirical evidence of the relationship between the theme and resilience, and others that conceptualize this relationship but with little empirical testing. We will account for these different evidences, and associated uncertainties, as we produce the index (see Section 3.2).

Coping capacity is comprised of six themes that encapsulate the factors influencing the resources and abilities that communities have to prepare for, absorb and recover from natural hazard events (Table 1). Adaptive capacity is comprised of two themes that encapsulate the factors that enable institutional and social learning, flexibility and problem solving (Table 2). The relationships between the theme and natural hazard resilience are established through the literature, where quantitative and qualitative studies explain the resilience responses of communities. Gathering the evidence for the relationship between a theme, or component indicator, is an important part of the study and is explained further in Section 3.2.

INDICATORS

Indicators provide the data for a theme – together the indicators measure the status of the theme. Many indicators have a basis in the literature and have demonstrated relationships with aspects of natural hazards or disasters. The indicators used to measure the status of the theme can be selected using a set of criteria that increase confidence in the associations between an indicator and disaster resilience (Winderl, 2014). While there will always be trade-offs between indicator specificity, data availability, cost effectiveness and sensitivity (Winderl, 2014) the selection of indicators can be guided by criteria that help to bound large sets of potential indicators. The criteria used to guide the selection of indicators for the Australian Disaster Resilience Index are outlined in Table 3. In guiding this selection, the data used for the indicator firstly needs to have a whole of nation geographic coverage (Criteria 3, 4 and 6) such as from census data, policy documents or economic data. Second, there will be statistical challenges or requirements that may require us to modify the indicators included in each theme (Criteria 5). Third, the indicator needs to be supported by evidence of how it contributes to resilience and how it behaves along a continuum of low to high resilience (Criteria 1, 2 and 5).

A literature review revealed many indicators that have been used to assess disaster vulnerability or resilience in top-down, large scale approaches (e.g. Cutter et al. 2003, Cutter et al. 2010, Sherrieb et al. 2010, Birkmann et al., 2012, Frazier et al., 2013, Orencio and Fujii, 2013). These



methods and indicators became a basis for identifying potential indicators for the index. However most of the published indicators are aligned with the coping capacity part of the conceptual model (Figure 1). This arises largely from the conceptual approaches on which these assessments are based where resilience is the capacity of communities to absorb and moderate the impacts of natural hazards (e.g. Cutter et al. 2010, Sherrieb et al. 2010). Although a core theme of the theoretical literature on disaster resilience (Engle, 2011) deriving indicators of adaptive capacity in relation to natural hazards is rare. For example, despite being part of the BRIC Model (Cutter et al., 2008) Cutter et al. (2010) did not include adaptive capacity indicators. However, much attention has been paid to the assessment of adaptive capacity in the climate change literature (Engle, 2011; IPCC, 2012). Table 4 outlines the draft set of indicators which will be explored under each theme and capacity.

The generalized process for indicator selection, literature review and index calculation is given in Figure 3. For each indicator there can be a positive or negative relationship between that indicator and natural hazard resilience. A review of quantitative and qualitative studies will be used to extract evidence and set the relationship between the indicator and resilience within confidence bounds. This will determine the directionality of the indicator along a continuum of high to low resilience.

Table 4. Proposed indicators of coping and adaptive capacity in the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. Where variables have not yet been derived, a potential data source is given and marked *. ABS = Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Theme	Indicator	Variables and/or data source
COPING CAPACITY		
Social character <i>(Social and demographic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events)</i>	Educational attainment	Ratio of population with high school education to post-secondary education
	Age	Percentage of population aged over 75 Percentage of population aged under 15 Median age of population
	Language proficiency	Proficiency in spoken English / language
	Migration (external)	Percentage of population arrived in Australia after 2001
	Migration (internal)	Percentage of households with one or more residents having a different address one year ago
	Gender	Ratio of males to females in population
	Household structure	Percentage of households with children Percentage of households lone person households Percentage of households single parent households
	Core need for assistance	Percentage of population with a core activity need for assistance
	Employment	% labour force employed % not in labour force
	Occupation	% population with occupation as Class 1 or 2
	Economic capital <i>(Economic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events)</i>	Income
Infrastructure		State of the assets report – local government*
Single-sector employment dependence		ABS economic data*
Growth		ABS 2011 census and economic data*
Business wealth		ABS economic data*
Car ownership		ABS 2011 Census*
Home ownership		% population home owners
Infrastructure and planning <i>(Preparation for natural hazard events using strategies of mitigation or planning)</i>	Building codes	Australian Building Codes board and State level planning legislation*
	Dwelling type	ABS 2011 Census*
	Municipal service levels	Local government national report*
	Land use planning policy	Individual state planning legislation*
	Risk assessment and management strategy	Individual state emergency management legislation and policy*
	Insurance	ABS Household expenditure survey*

Table 4 (cont.)

Theme	Indicator	Variables and/or data source
COPING CAPACITY		
Emergency services <i>(The presence, capability and resourcing of emergency services, warning systems and disaster response plans)</i>	Health services	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*
	Emergency service capability	AFAC and State emergency service agencies* Productivity Commission*
	Emergency service volunteerism	AFAC*
	Remoteness	ATO Remote area allowance categories*
	Disaster response planning and policy	AFAC and State emergency service agencies*
Community capital <i>(The cohesion and connectedness of the community)</i>	Crime	Australian Bureau of Criminology*
	Well-being	Australian social health atlases of Australia*
	Access to social services	Australian social health atlases of Australia*
	Sport and recreation	ABS Survey of participation in sport and physical recreation*
	Volunteerism	ABS 2011 Census*
	Length of residence	ABS 2011 Census*
Information and engagement <i>(Availability of natural hazard information, community engagement and partnerships to encourage risk awareness)</i>	Internet connection	ABS Household use of information technology survey*
	Community engagement strategy	Emergency service agency expenditure on community engagement as a proportion of agency budget* Presence and type of emergency service community engagement strategy* Time spent on community engagement*
	Risk awareness strategy and planning	Publicly available risk awareness tools*
ADAPTIVE CAPACITY		
Governance, policy and leadership <i>(Organizational enablers of adaptation)</i>	Organizational structure and flexibility	Emergency agency policy* Emergency agency enterprise agreements* Emergency agency budgets*
	Review and learning processes in relation to responsibility	Emergency agency policy and procedures*
	Partnerships (public-private)	Emergency agencies*
	Research and development	Emergency agency budgets*
	Organizational innovation	Emergency agency policy development history* Age of legislation and development process
	Trust	Australian or State government surveys*
Community and social engagement <i>(Social enablers of adaptation)</i>	Civic engagement	AEC electoral participation data – Federal, State, Local
	Community flexibility	SEIFA*
	Capacity for community self-organization	SEIFA*

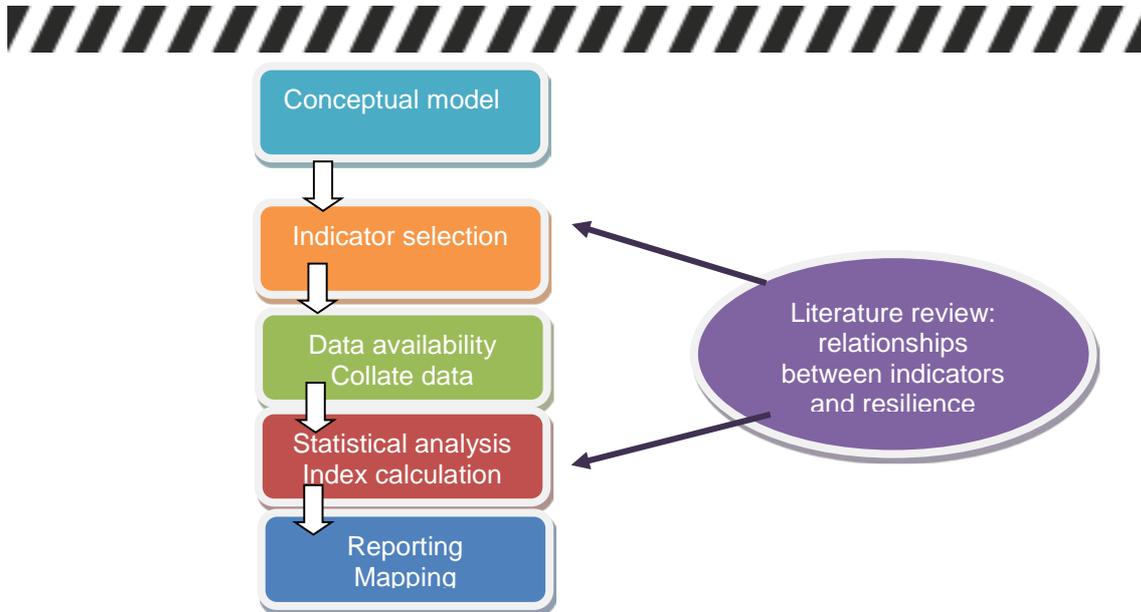


Figure 3. The generalised process for deriving the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index.

Index calculation is the process of bringing together the indicators to form an index. There is much debate in the literature about the derivation of an index from component indicators, and the relationship between an index and reality (Tate, 2012; Burton, 2015). Deductive and hierarchical designs tend to use additive models of index derivation. Weighting may be applied to emphasise some indicators with greater contribution to resilience, although weighting strongly influence index sensitivity (Tate, 2012). Inductive designs (e.g. Cutter et al. 2003) use factor analysis to extract factors describing the relative contribution of indicators to overall variation. Factor analysis is sensitive to the choice of indicator set (Tate 2012). Recent symposia suggest that index designs are leaning towards deductive designs that use simple but robust additive models, because these facilitate more meaningful communication of index results. We will explore the outcomes of these two types of approaches on the results of the index. Validation against reality is an element of index design that is developing, because the opportunities for validating assessments of resilience against real events are rare (but see Burton, 2015 for an exception). The extensive literature review supporting each indicator will help to link smaller-scale, hazard-specific observations of the factors thought to influence resilience with the larger-scale index outputs.



WHAT WILL THE AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE INDEX LOOK LIKE?

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index is a spatial representation of the current state of disaster resilience across Australia. It will be composed of multiple levels of information that can be reported separately – an overall index, themes and indicators. Information will be conveyed primarily as maps that are colour coded along a continuum of high to low resilience status. This means that each point on a map will have a corresponding set of information about natural hazard resilience. Where possible the resolution at which we calculate indicators is the Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2) division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), however part of our work in the project will be to examine the sensitivity and comparability of data collected at different scales. The index and indicators will be drawn together as a State of Disaster Resilience Report. This document will interpret resilience at multiple levels and highlight hotspots of high and low elements of natural hazard resilience.

We also intend for the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index to be used as a layer of information in the preparation, prevention and recovery spheres. These activities might include policy development, strategy development, risk assessment and management, land use planning, community engagement and organizational planning and prioritization. Spatially explicit capture of data (i.e. in a Geographical Information System) will facilitate seamless integration with other types of information and mapping.

In any top-down large-scale assessment such as the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index there will be limitations on the currency and application of the findings. Broad national data sets such as the 2011 Australian census will be 7 years old when the index is released in 2017/18. The next Australian census is scheduled for 2016 but it can take several years for some variables to be validated and released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. There is also a ceiling spatial resolution at which the disaster resilience index can be applied. For example, the index will explain variation in resilience at the smallest resolution of SA2 level of the 2011 Australian census, and some variables may be collected at a broader resolution. Some community planning and engagement activities might ideally like to have finer scale information related to activities such as household preparedness. This type of data is not collected in the index and indeed, requires a bottom-up survey approach that is outside the scope of this project. Rural, remote and indigenous communities may also experience resilience differently to urban and regional communities. The social influences on rural and remote communities may need to be accounted for in deriving indicator variables and this will be part of the analysis process.



The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index will provide a tool to assist the move from disaster risk reduction towards a sustainable future of natural hazard resilience (Committee on Measures of Disaster Resilience, 2015). The index will provide a benchmark of national-level disaster resilience against which future changes can be assessed. It can also support various policy development initiatives such as the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Strategy, and potentially help to embed disaster resilience into policy and legislation. It can also be used as a layer in risk assessment that overlays the socially based influences on disaster resilience.



PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Morley, P., Parsons, M., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2015) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index, Developing an Index of Resilience for Australian communities. 5th Annual Building Resilience Conference, Newcastle
- Parsons, M., Morley, P., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2015) Presentation at NSW Rural Fire Service Research Workshop. NSW Rural Fire Service, Sydney
- Morley, P., Parsons, M., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2015) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index, Developing an Index of Resilience for Australian communities. Presentation at Ngukurr Resilience Assessment Workshop, Northern Territory
- Parsons, M., Morley, P., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2015) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. BNHCRC Research Advisory Forum, Sydney
- Morley, P., Parsons, M., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2014) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index, Developing an Index of Resilience for Australian communities. AFAC, Wellington, NZ
- Morley, P., Parsons, M., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2014) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. Global Risk Forum, IDRC, Davos, Switzerland
- Morley, P., Parsons, M., Argent, N. Glavac, S., Marshall, G., McGregor, J., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Stayner, R., Thoms, M. (2014) The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. BNHCRC Research Advisory Forum, Adelaide



CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS

- Associate Professor Neil Argent, Geography and Planning, UNE
- Dr Sonya Glavac, Geography and Planning, UNE
- Dr Peter Hastings, Queensland University of Technology
- Associate Professor Graham Marshall, Institute for Rural Futures, UNE
- James McGregor, Geography and Planning, UNE
- Dr Judith McNeill, Geography and Planning, UNE
- Dr Phil Morley, Institute for Rural Futures, UNE
- Dr Melissa Parsons, Geography and Planning, UNE
- Dr Ian Reeve, Institute for Rural Futures, UNE
- Dr Richard Stayner, Institute for Rural Futures, UNE
- Professor Martin Thoms, Riverine Landscapes Research Laboratory, UNE
- Sandra Barber, Manager – Tasmanian Fire Service
- Gwynne Brennan, Manager – CFA Victoria
- Trent Curtin, Commander – MFB, Melbourne
- Karen Enbom, Team Leader – CFA Victoria
- Sunara Fernando - NSW RFS
- Paul Fletcher - MFS, SA
- Suellen Flint, Manager – DFES, WA
- Dr Holly Foster - Fire Services Commissioner, Victoria
- Colleen Ridge – Planning and Education, SES, Tasmania
- Raelene Thompson – AEMI, Attorney General’s Department, Melbourne
- Chris Lewis - NSW Fire and Rescue
- Andrew Richards - NSW SES
- John Richardson - Red Cross
- Tamara Beckett - DEPI Vic



REFERENCES

- Akama, Y., Chaplin, S. and Fairbrother, P. 2014. Role of social networks in community preparedness for bushfire. *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment*, 5: 277-291.
- Aldrich, D. 2012. *Building resilience: Social capital in post-disaster recovery*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago.
- Alliance Development Works. 2014. *World Risk Report, 2014*. United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn, Germany.
- Annan, K. 2003. United Nations Secretary-General's message for the International Day for Disaster Reduction. United Nations, New York. Available from: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/?nid=551>
- Arbon, P. 2014. Developing a model and tool to measure community disaster resilience. *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 29: 12-16.
- Bene, C. 2013. Towards a quantifiable measure of resilience. IDS Working Paper Number 434. Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK.
- Berkes, F. 2007. Understanding uncertainty and reducing vulnerability: lessons from resilience thinking. *Natural Hazards*, 41: 283-295.
- Bird, D., King, D., Haynes, K., Box, P., Okada, T. and Nairn, K. 2013. Impact of the 2010-2011 floods and the factors that inhibit and enable household adaptation strategies. National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast, Queensland.
- Birkmann, J. 2006. Measuring vulnerability to promote disaster-resilient societies: conceptual frameworks and definitions. In: Birkmann, J. (Editor). *Measuring vulnerability to natural hazards: towards disaster resilient societies*. Pages 9-54. United Nations University Press: Tokyo.
- Birkmann, J. et al. 2012. Systematization of different concepts, quality criteria and indicators. Working Paper 1.2, Embrace. United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, Germany.
- Boin, A., Comfort, L.K. and Demchak, C.C. 2010. The rise of resilience. In: Comfort, L.K., Boin, A. and Demchak, C.C. (Editors) *Designing Resilience: Preparing for extreme events*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. Pages 1-12.
- Boin, A. 2010. Designing resilience: Leadership challenges in complex administrative systems. In: Comfort, L.K., Boin, A. and Demchak, C.C. (Editors) *Designing Resilience: Preparing for extreme events*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. Pages 129-142.
- Brown, D. 2009. Good practice guidelines for indicator development and reporting. Contributed paper: Third World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy. 27-30 October 2009, Busan, Korea.
- Burton, C.G. 2015. A Validation of Metrics for Community Resilience to Natural Hazards and Disasters Using the Recovery from Hurricane Katrina as a Case Study. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 105: 67-86.
- Committee on Measures of Community Resilience. 2015. *Developing a framework for measuring community resilience: summary of a workshop*. The National Academies Press, Washington DC.
- Crompton, R.P., McAneny, J., Chen, K., Pielke, R.A. and Haynes, K. 2010. Influence of location, population and climate on building damage and fatalities due to Australian bushfire: 1925-2009. *Weather, Climate and Society*, 2: 300-310.
- Cutter, S.L., Boruff, B.J. and Shirley, W.L. 2003. Social vulnerability to environmental hazards. *Social Science Quarterly*, 84: 242-261.



Cutter, S.L., Barnes, L., Berry, M., Burton, C., Evans, E., Tate, E. and Webb, J. 2008. A place-based model for understanding community resilience to natural disasters. *Global Environmental Change*, 18: 598-606.

Cutter, S.L., Burton, C.G., and Emrich, C.T. 2010. Disaster resilience indicators for benchmarking baseline conditions. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, 7: Issue 1, Article 51. DOI: 10.2202/1547-7355.1732

Downes, B.J., Barmuta, L.A., Fairweather, P.G., Faith, D.P., Keough, M.J., Lake, P.S., Mapstone, B.D. and Quinn, J.P. 2002. *Monitoring Ecological Impacts: Concepts and Practice in Flowing Waters*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

[EMA] Emergency Management Australia. 2013. *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Community Engagement Framework*. Handbook Number 6, Attorney General's Department, Canberra.

Engle, N.L. 2011. Adaptive capacity and its assessment. *Global Environmental Change*, 21: 647-656.

Folke C., J. Colding, and F. Berkes. 2002. Building resilience for adaptive capacity in social-ecological systems. In: Berkes F., J. Colding, and C. Folke (Editors). *Navigating Social-Ecological Systems: Building Resilience for Complexity and Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Frazier, T.G., Thompson, C.M., Dezzani, R.J. and Butsick, D. 2013. Spatial and temporal quantification of resilience at the community scale. *Applied Geography*, 42: 95-107.

Goldstein, B.E. (Editor). 2012. *Collaborative resilience: moving through crisis to opportunity*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Handmer, J.W. and Dovers, S.R. 1996. A typology of resilience: Rethinking institutions for sustainable development. *Industrial and Environmental Crisis Quarterly*, 9: 482-511.

Handmer, J. and Dovers, S. 2013. *Handbook of disaster policies and institutions*. Routledge: Abingdon, UK.

[IPCC] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2012. *Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation. A special report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Jenkins, P. 2013. The nature of human communities. In: Thomas, D.S.K., Phillips, B.D., Lovekamp, W.E. and Fothergill, A. (Editors). *Social Vulnerability to Disasters*. Pages 397-413. CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL.

Kaufman, S. 2012. Complex systems, anticipation and collaborative planning for resilience. In: Goldstein, B.E. (Editor). *Collaborative resilience: moving through crisis to opportunity*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts. Pages 61-98.

King, D. 2008. Reducing hazard vulnerability through local government engagement and action. *Natural Hazards*, 47: 497-508.

Klein, R.J.T., Nicholls, R.J. and Thomalla, F. 2003. Resilience to natural hazards: How useful is this concept? *Environmental Hazards*, 5: 35-45.

Maguire, B. and Cartwright, S. 2008. *Assessing a community's capacity to manage change: A resilience approach to social assessment*. Australian Government, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Morrow, B.H. 1999. Identifying and mapping community vulnerability. *Disasters*, 23: 1-18.

Norris, F.H., Stevens, S.P., Pfefferbaum, B., Wyche, K.F. and Pfefferbaum, R.L. 2008. Community resilience as a metaphor, theory, set of capacities and strategy for disaster readiness. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 41: 127-150.



Orencio, P.M. and Fujii, M. 2013. A localized disaster-resilience index to assess coastal communities based on an analytic hierarchy process (AHP). *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 3: 62-75.

O'Neill, S.J. and Handmer, J. 2012. Responding to bushfire risk: the need for transformative adaptation. *Environmental Research Letters*, 7, online. doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/7/1/014018.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority. 2012. Planning for stronger, more resilient floodplains. Part 2: Measures to support floodplain management in future planning schemes. Queensland Government, Brisbane.

[UNISDR] United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. 2009. UNISDR terminology on disaster risk reduction. UNISDR, Switzerland.

Sherrieb, K., Norris, F.H. and Galea, S. 2010. Measuring capabilities for community resilience. *Social Indicator Research*, 99: 227-247.

Smith, G. 2009. Planning for sustainable and disaster resilient communities. In: Pine, C. (Editor). *Natural Hazards Analysis*. Taylor and Francis: Boca Raton, FL. pp. 221-247.

Tate, E. 2012. Social vulnerability indices: a comparative assessment using uncertainty and sensitivity analysis. *Natural Hazards*, 63: 325-347.

Thomas, D.S.K., Phillips, B.D., Lovekamp, W.E., and Fothergill, A. (Editors). 2013. *Social Vulnerability to Disasters*. CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL.

Tierney, K. 2014. *The social roots of risk*. Stanford University Press, California.

Winderl, T. 2014. Disaster resilience measurements. Stocktaking of ongoing efforts in developing systems for measuring resilience. United Nations Development Programme.

Wisner, B., Blaikie, P., Cannon, T. and Davis, I. 2004. *At risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters*. Routledge, London.