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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians across all the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and emerging. We recognise that these lands and waters have always been places of teaching, research and learning.

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State of Disaster Resilience Report 2025

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Download the digital report and appendices from adri.naturalhazards.com.au

Executive summary

The Australian Disaster Resilience Index (ADRI) is a nationally standardised index of Australian communities' capacity for disaster resilience. Disaster resilience is a protective characteristic that acts to reduce the effects of, and losses from, natural hazards. ADRI is not about the resilience of individuals, but assesses disaster resilience as a system of social, economic and institutional factors.

Released in 2020, ADRI helps users understand how systemic capacity for disaster resilience differs from place to place and supports communities, governments at all levels and industry in planning, policy development, risk analysis and decision making.

In 2024, the opportunity arose to refresh ADRI. This report assesses the state of disaster resilience in Australia using this next iteration, referred to as ADRI-2.

The foundational design and statistical methods of ADRI-1 are retained in ADRI-2. No major changes were made to the conceptual construct, structural design, datasets or statistical computation of ADRI so that ADRI-2 is methodologically compatible with ADRI-1. The Index was computed in 2,330 SA2s (Statistical Areas Level 2 of the Australian Bureau of Statistics), across Australia.

State of disaster resilience: ADRI-2

Most of the population of Australia live in areas assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience.

Approximately 52% of Australia's population, or approximately 13.5 million people, live in an SA2 assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience (Index values 0.5216–0.7110). Areas with moderate disaster resilience comprise 9.8% of Australia's land area.

Approximately 25% of Australia's population, or 6.5 million people, live in an SA2 assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience (Index values 0.7111–1.000). Areas with high capacity for disaster resilience comprise 1.6% of Australia's land area.

Approximately 23% of Australia's population, or 5.9 million people live in an SA2 assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience (Index values 0.0000-0.5215). Areas with low capacity for disaster resilience comprise 89% of Australia's land area.

There is a distinct relationship between capacity for disaster resilience and remoteness.

ADRI-2 was arrayed against the ABS Australian Statistical Geographical Standard 2021 remoteness structure: major cities (called 'metropolitan' in this report), inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas.

There is a distinct directional relationship between remoteness and capacity for disaster resilience.

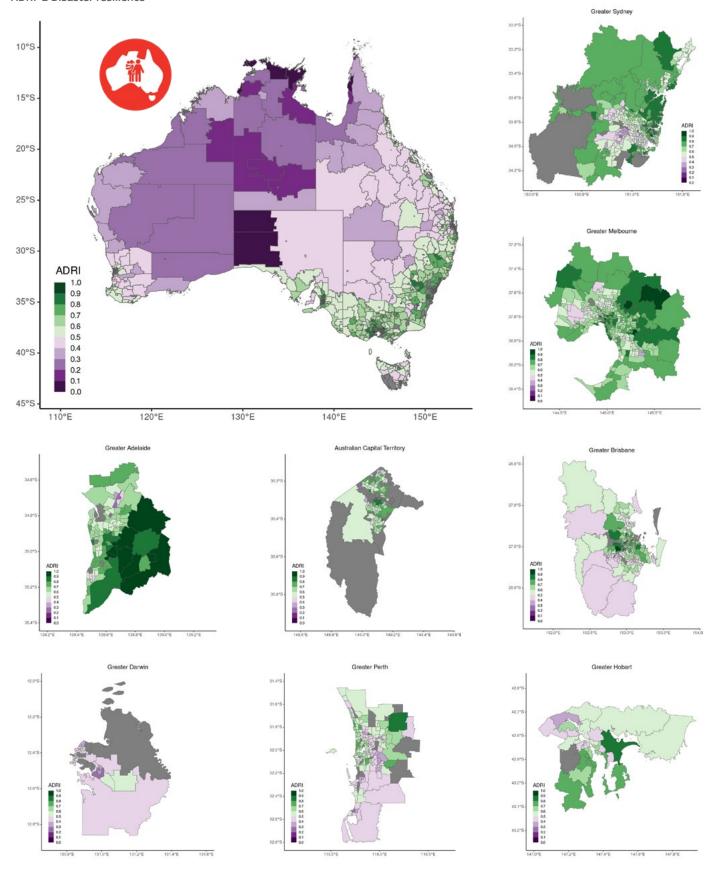
Most of the 25% of SA2s assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience occur in metropolitan and inner regional areas of Australia.

Most of the 52% of SA2s assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience occur in metropolitan, inner regional or outer regional areas, although nine remote or very remote SA2s had moderate disaster resilience.

Some of the 23% of SA2s assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience occur in outer regional, remote and very remote areas. However, low capacity for disaster resilience is also found in inner regional and metropolitan SA2s.

The state of disaster resilience in Australia in 2025, assessed using ADRI-2, remains one of non-uniformly distributed capacity for disaster resilience. Geography influences the capacity for disaster resilience. Communities in outer regional, remote and very remote areas have lower capacity for disaster resilience, assessed using the latent themes of systemic disaster resilience that comprise the ADRI model. Metropolitan and inner regional SA2s tend to be associated with higher capacity for disaster resilience, although some SA2s with lower capacity for disaster resilience are in these areas.





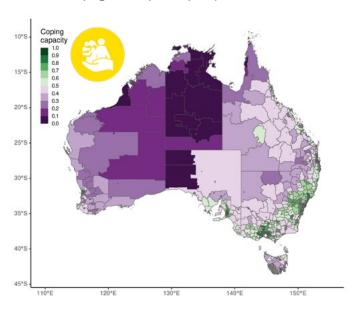
Coping and adaptive capacity: ADRI-2

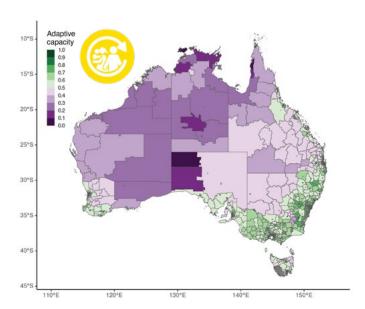
Approximately 66% of Australia's population, or approximately 17.1 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having some combination of high or moderate coping capacity and high or moderate adaptive capacity.

The remaining 34% of Australia's population, or approximately 8.9 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having some combination of low coping capacity and/or low adaptive capacity.

The population and land area patterns of coping and adaptive capacity can primarily be explained by remoteness. Most of the population assessed with high or moderate coping and adaptive capacity live in metropolitan or inner regional SA2s. Some outer regional or remote SA2s are associated with moderate or high coping or adaptive capacity but, in general, outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s are associated with low coping and adaptive capacities. There are also some metropolitan and inner regional SA2s associated with low coping and adaptive capacities.

ADRI-2 coping and adaptive capacity





Description of high, moderate and low disaster resilience bands for ADRI-2

Communities in areas of low disaster resilience

may be limited in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and are limited in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.

Limitations to disaster resilience may be contributed by entrenched social and economic disadvantage, less access to or provision of resources and services, lower community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

Moderate

Communities in areas of moderate disaster resilience have some capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and some capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.

Moderate disaster resilience is generally contributed by moderate levels of coping and adaptive capacity, which in turn are associated with moderate levels of economic capital, moderate provision of access to services, moderate community cohesion and variable encouragement for adaptive learning and problem solving.

High

Communities in areas of high disaster resilience have enhanced capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and enhanced capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.

Factors contributing to high disaster resilience may include employment, education, income, good access to or provision of resources and services, strong community cohesion and ample opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

Low

Disaster resilience profiles: ADRI-2

The themes influencing disaster resilience in different Australian locations are summarised using groups. SA2s within a group are similar to each other, but each group is associated with a different set of enablers (strengths) and barriers to disaster resilience capacity. These profiles can be used to understand patterns of Australian disaster resilience, as well as strengths and opportunities for building and supporting systemic aspects of disaster resilience in place.

Summary of disaster resilience profiles in Australia: ADRI-2

	Disaster resilience profile		
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Disaster resilience	Social character	Community capital	Planning and the built environment
strengths	Emergency services	Social character	Economic capital
	Planning and the built environment	Economic capital	Emergency services
	Community capital	Emergency services	Information access
	Social and community engagement	Information access	Community capital
		Social and community engagement	Social and community engagement
		Governance and leadership	Governance and leadership
Barriers to disaster resilience	Economic capital Information access Governance and leadership	Planning and the built environment	Social character
Population*#	2,556,351	12,401,087	11,035,967
Percent population	10	48	42
Land area (km²) [^]	7,433,851	155,131	55,823
Percent land area [^]	97	2	1
Number of SA2s+	396	1107	827
Metropolitan SA2s\$	24 (2 %)	859 (58%)	603 (41%)
Inner regional SA2s\$	171 (36%)	165 (34%)	143 (30%)
Outer regional SA2s\$	128 (47%)	75 (27%)	72 (26%)
Remote SA2s\$	36 (77%)	5 (11%)	6 (13%)
Very remote SA2s\$	37 (86%)	3 (7%)	3 (7%)

^{*} Computed using ABS Estimated Resident population as of 30 June 2022.

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[#] Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. The total population in SA2s used in the Index is 25,993,405 people. The total population in SA2s not used in the Index is a further 12,135 people.

[^] Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. The land area of SA2s used in the Index is 7,644,804 km². The land area of SA2s not used in the Index is a further 43,483 km².

⁺ Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. Of the 2,472 SA2s in the ASGS 2021, 2,330 were used in the Index and 142 excluded.

^{\$} ABS remoteness structure, ASGS 2021.

1. Introduction

1.1 Understanding Australia's capacity for disaster resilience using the Australian Disaster Resilience Index

The Australian Disaster Resilience Index (ADRI) provides the first nationally standardised index of disaster resilience in Australia. Information regarding key terms, the 2024 update and results of the 2025 assessment follow.

Disaster resilience is the capacity to prepare for, absorb and recover from natural hazards and to learn, adapt and transform in ways that enhance these capacities in the face of future events (Parsons et al. 2016). ADRI is not about the resilience of individuals, but assesses disaster resilience as a system of social, economic and institutional factors. Thus, disaster resilience arises from many social, economic and institutional capacities and the mix of these capacities in a community conveys how well it is relatively positioned to absorb and adapt to natural hazards.

ADRI is a snapshot of Australian communities' capacities for disaster resilience. Disaster resilience is a protective characteristic that acts to reduce the effects of, and losses from, natural hazards (Parsons et al. 2016). Understanding these capacities and how they differ between locations helps communities, governments and industry work together to understand and adapt to natural hazards including bushfires, floods, storms and earthquakes.

ADRI applies a hierarchical design (Figure 1.1 and Appendix 1). The first level is the overall assessment of disaster resilience. The second level is made up of coping capacity and adaptive capacity. The third level is made up of themes that reflect the dimensions of disaster resilience within coping capacity and adaptive capacity. An index is computed for the first, second and third levels, based on a set of variables (Appendix 2) that are intended to represent the characteristic system of interest.

The themes influencing disaster resilience in different locations are summarised using a typology. The typology identifies SA2s with similar characteristic patterns of theme sub-index values and places these into groups. Each group has a different disaster resilience profile comprising associated strengths and barriers that contribute to disaster resilience capacity.



1.2 Updating ADRI: from ADRI-1 to ADRI-2

This report assesses the state of disaster resilience in Australia using the 2024-updated version of ADRI, called ADRI-2.

Completed in 2019, ADRI-1 was the first nationally standardised index of disaster resilience in Australia. Scientifically rigorous and peer-reviewed, ADRI-1 was developed using secondary datasets about demography, health, services, governance and economics available in 2015, including the 2011 ABS Census of Population and Housing. As a national-scale relative spatial index showing the distribution of capacity for disaster resilience across Australia, ADRI-1's currency was approximately 10 years as structural drivers of these large-scale patterns of disaster resilience do not change quickly.

In 2024, the opportunity arose to refresh ADRI using datasets available around 2024, including the 2021 ABS Census of Population and Housing. ADRI-2 was computed in 2024.

The foundational design and statistical methods of ADRI-1 were retained in ADRI-2. No major changes were made to the conceptual construct, structural design, datasets or statistical computation of ADRI. Thus, ADRI-2 is methodologically compatible with ADRI-1.

To update ADRI-1 to ADRI-2, the most up-to-date datasets were sourced for each of the 85 variables (Appendix 2). In some instances, datasets or variables used in ADRI-1 were no longer available or had not been updated. To retain the currency, conceptual construct and statistical rigour of ADRI, newly released and cognate datasets and variables were investigated and included if they met criteria of data robustness.

ADRI-2 uses the SA2 level of the 2021 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (2021 ASGS). Following the same approach used in ADRI-1 for including or excluding SA2s, 2,330 were retained out of the 2,472 identified in the 2021 ASGS. There were 142 SA2s excluded because they are areas of no or low population (for example, ports, airports, industrial areas, national parks). Several island SA2s were also excluded due to data availability.

2. State of Disaster Resilience 2025

ADRI ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 representing the lowest capacity for disaster resilience and 1 representing the highest capacity for disaster resilience. The 2,330 SA2s were split into three bands of high, moderate and low capacity for disaster resilience (Table 2.1). Each band has an associated narrative of capacity for disaster resilience (Table 2.1). Population, land area and remoteness characteristics of the component SA2s were tallied to estimate the proportions associated with the disaster resilience bands.

 Table 2.1: Description of high, moderate and low disaster resilience bands for ADRI-2

ADRI Band	Percentile	Description		
<25th percentile ADRI = 0 − 0.5215		Communities in areas of low disaster resilience may be limited in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and are limited in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Limited to disaster resilience may be contributed by entrenched		
		social and economic disadvantage, less access to or provision of resources and services, lower community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.		
Moderate	25th – 75th percentile ADRI = 0.5216 – 0.7110	Communities in areas of moderate disaster resilience have some capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and some capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.		
		Moderate disaster resilience is generally contributed by moderate levels of coping and adaptive capacity, which in turn are associated with moderate levels of economic capital, moderate provision of access to services, moderate community cohesion and variable encouragement for adaptive learning and problem solving.		
High	>75th percentile ADRI = 0.7111 – 1	Communities in areas of high disaster resilience have enhanced capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and enhanced capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.		
		Factors contributing to high disaster resilience may include employment, education, income, good access to or provision of resources and services, strong community cohesion and ample opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.		

2.1 Disaster resilience in Australia: ADRI-2

2.1.1 Most of the Australian population live in areas assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience

There is a general pattern of higher capacity for disaster resilience across the populated south-east of Australia and around metropolitan and major regional centres (Figure 2.1). Outer regional and remote Australia generally has lower capacity for disaster resilience (Figure 2.1).

Approximately 52% of Australia's population, or approximately 13.5 million people, live in a SA2 assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience (Table 2.2). Areas with moderate disaster resilience comprise 9.8% of Australia's land area (Table 2.2).

Areas with moderate disaster resilience have some capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and some capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Moderate disaster resilience is generally contributed by moderate levels of coping and adaptive capacity, which in turn are associated with moderate levels of economic capital, moderate provision of access to services, moderate community cohesion and variable encouragement of adaptive learning and problem solving.

Approximately 25% of Australia's population, or 6.5 million people, live in an SA2 assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience (Table 2.2). Areas with high capacity for disaster resilience comprise 1.6% of Australia's land area (Table 2.2).

Areas with high disaster resilience are associated with enhanced capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and enhanced capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Factors contributing to high disaster resilience may include employment, education, income, good access to or provision of resources and services, strong community cohesion and ample opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

Approximately 23% of Australia's population, or 5.9 million people live in an SA2 assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience (Table 2.2). Areas with low capacity for disaster resilience comprise 89% of Australia's land area (Table 2.2).

Areas with low disaster resilience are associated with low capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and are likely to be limited in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Limitations to disaster resilience may be contributed by entrenched social and economic disadvantage, less access to or provision of resources and services, lower community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

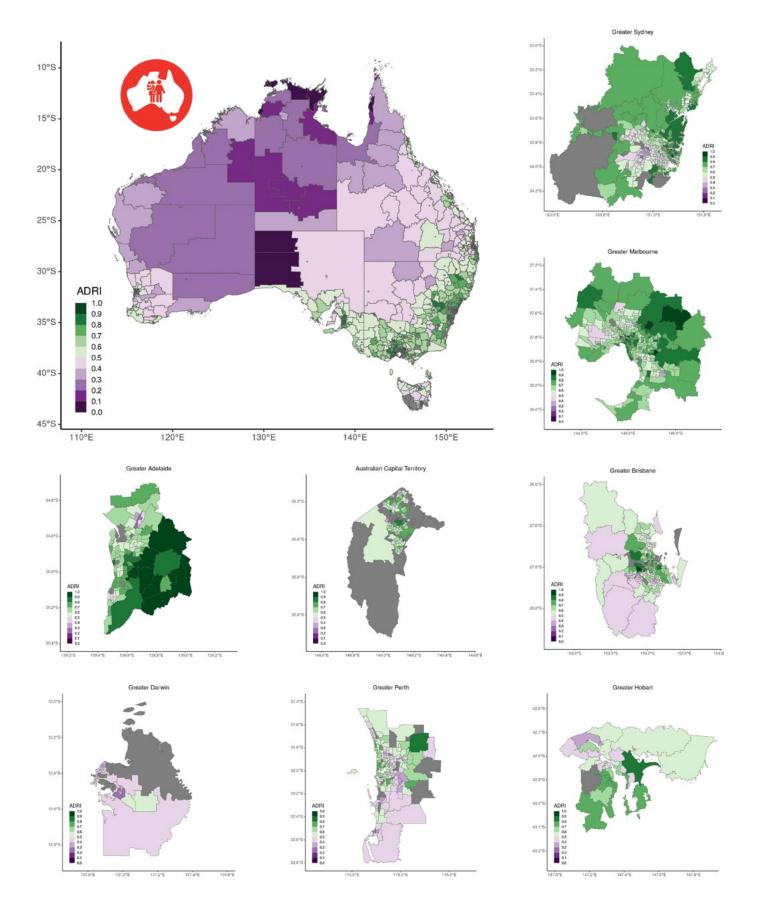


Figure 2.1: Capacity for disaster resilience in Australia assessed using ADRI-2. The Index ranges from 0-1 where 0 is lower capacity for disaster resilience and 1 is higher capacity for disaster resilience.

Table 2.2: Population, land area and remoteness associated with ADRI-2 low, moderate and high capacity for disaster resilience

		Capacity for disaster resilience			
		Low <25th percentile 0 – 0.5215	Moderate 25th – 75th percentile 0.5216 – 0.7110	High >75th percentile 0.7111 – 1	
Population*#					
Population in co	omponent SA2s	5,917,773	13,511,500	6,564,132	
Percentage pop	ulation in component SA2s	22.8%	52.0%	25.2%	
Land area [^]					
Land area of co	mponent SA2s (km²)	6,773,392	747,651	123,762	
Percentage land	d area in component SA2s	88.6%	9.8%	1.6%	
Remoteness ^{\$}					
Metropolitan	Population in component SA2s	3,959,706	9,826,222	5,461,405	
	Percentage population in component SA2s	15.2%	37.8%	21.0%	
	Number of component SA2s	279	748	459	
Inner regional	Population in component SA2s	721,786	2,642,446	1,078,174	
	Percentage population in component SA2s	2.8%	10.2%	4.1%	
	Number of component SA2s	87	273	119	
Outer regional	Population in component SA2s	833,039	998,902	24,553	
regional	Percentage population in component SA2s	3.2%	3.8%	0.1%	
	Number of component SA2s	136	134	5	
Remote	Population in component SA2s	251,548	37,528	0	
	Percentage population in component SA2s	1.0%	0.1%	0	
	Number of component SA2s	41	6	0	
Very remote	Population in component SA2s	151,694	6,402	0	
	Percentage population in component SA2s	0.6%	0.02%	0	
	Number of component SA2s	40	3	0	
SA2s+					
Number of SA2	S	583	1,164	583	
Percentage of S	A2s	25	50	25	

^{*} Computed using ABS Estimated Resident population as of 30 June 2022.

[#] Excludes SA2s not used in the index. The population in SA2s used in the index is 25,993,405 people. The population in SA2s not used in the index is a further 12,135 people.

[^] Excludes SA2s not used in the index. The land area of SA2s used in the index is 7,644,804 km². The land area of SA2s not used in the index is a further 43,483 km².

^{\$} ABS remoteness structure, ASGS 2021.

⁺ Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. Of the 2,472 SA2s in the ASGS 2021, 2,330 were used in the index and 142 excluded.

2.1.2 There is a distinct relationship between capacity for disaster resilience and remoteness

ADRI-2 was arrayed against the ABS Australian Statistical Geographical Standard 2021 remoteness structure: major cities (also called metropolitan here), inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas.

While each category of remoteness contains SA2s with a range of high to low index values, there is a distinct directional relationship between remoteness and capacity for disaster resilience (Figure 2.2). Remote and very remote SA2s are dominated by lower index values (Figure 2.2). Outer regional, inner regional and metropolitan SA2s are progressively concentrated within the higher range of index values (Figure 2.2). Thus, metropolitan SA2s are generally associated with higher capacity for disaster resilience.

Most SA2s assessed with a high capacity for disaster resilience occur in metropolitan and inner regional areas of Australia. Only five outer regional SA2s were assessed with a high capacity for disaster resilience while no remote or very remote SA2s were assessed with high disaster resilience (Table 2.2). Areas with high disaster resilience are confined to 1.6% of Australia's land surface area (Table 2.2).

Most SA2s assessed with a moderate capacity for disaster resilience occur in metropolitan, inner regional or outer regional areas, although nine remote or very remote SA2s were assessed with a moderate disaster resilience (Table 2.2). Areas with moderate disaster resilience cover 9.8% of Australia's land surface (Table 2.2).

Low capacity for disaster resilience is associated with outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s (Table 2.2). The land area associated with low capacity for disaster resilience covers 88.6% of Australia's land surface. Low capacity for disaster resilience is also found in certain inner regional and metropolitan SA2s (Table 2.2). In metropolitan areas, clusters of SA2s with low disaster resilience often sit alongside SA2s with high disaster resilience (Figure 2.1).

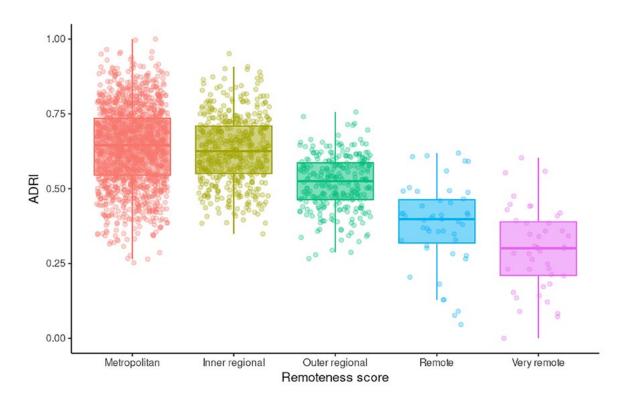


Figure 2.2: Distribution of ADRI-2 values by remoteness

2.1.3 Implications of the spatial distribution of disaster resilience in Australia

ADRI is aligned with a rights-based framework, where every Australian has the right to experience disaster resilience. The state of disaster resilience in Australia, assessed using ADRI-2, remains one of non-uniformly distributed capacity for disaster resilience. A community's geographical location influences its inherent capacity for disaster resilience:

- Outer regional, remote and very remote communities have lower inherent capacity for disaster resilience, assessed using our model of the latent themes of systemic disaster resilience.
- Metropolitan and inner regional SA2s tend to be associated with higher capacity for disaster resilience, although there are SA2s with lower capacity for disaster resilience in these areas.

This geographic pattern of disaster resilience confirms those demonstrated in social and economic assessments of education outcomes, health care access and outcomes, planning outcomes, transport access, employment outcomes, income and digital access, where outer regional, remote and very remote areas of Australia experience lower service levels and poorer outcomes in comparison to metropolitan areas.

Population and land area interact to generate non-uniform geographies of capacity for disaster resilience, with significant implications for actions to improve capacity for disaster resilience. Strategic intent to share the responsibility for disaster resilience can benefit from an understanding of the distribution of capacity across jurisdictions, so that policies and programs can be aligned to areas of greatest geographical disaster resilience need (Parsons et al. 2021).



2.2 Coping and adaptive capacity: ADRI-2

The second level of the disaster resilience assessment considers the coping and adaptive capacity sub-indexes. The coping and adaptive capacity sub-indexes range from 0 to 1, with 0 representing the lowest coping or adaptive capacity and 1 representing the highest coping or adaptive capacity. The 2,330 SA2s were split into three bands of high, moderate and low coping or adaptive capacity (Table 2.3).

Each band has an associated narrative of coping or adaptive capacity (Table 2.3). Population, land area and remoteness characteristics of the component SA2s were tallied to estimate the proportions associated with the coping and adaptive capacity bands.

 Table 2.3: Description of high, moderate and low coping and adaptive capacity bands

Capacity	Band	Percentile	Description
Coping	Low	<25th percentile 0 – 0.4737	Communities in areas of low coping capacity may be constrained in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard event.
	Moderate	25th – 75th percentile 0.4738 – 0.6613	Communities in areas of moderate coping capacity have some capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard event.
	High	>75th percentile 0.6614 – 1	Communities in areas of high coping capacity have enhanced capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard event.
Adaptive	Low	<25th percentile 0 – 0.4732	Communities in areas of low adaptive capacity may be constrained in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.
	Moderate	25th – 75th percentile 0.4733 – 0.6452	Communities in areas of moderate adaptive capacity have some capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.
	High	>75th percentile 0.6453 – 1	Communities in areas of high adaptive capacity have enhanced capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.



2.2.1 Patterns of coping and adaptive capacity in Australia

Visually, there is a general pattern of higher coping and adaptive capacity along the eastern States coastal fringe and around metropolitan and major regional centres (Figure 2.3).

Approximately 66% of Australia's population, or approximately 17.1 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having a combination of high or moderate coping capacity and high or moderate adaptive capacity (Table 2.4). These SA2s comprise approximately 6% of Australia's land area (Table 2.4).

The remaining 34% of Australia's population, or approximately 8.9 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having some combination of low coping capacity and/or low adaptive capacity (Table 2.4). These SA2s comprise approximately 94% of Australia's land area (Table 2.4).

The population and land area patterns of coping and adaptive capacity can be explained in large part by remoteness. Most of the population assessed as having high or moderate coping and adaptive capacity live in metropolitan or inner regional SA2s (Table 2.5). Some outer regional or remote SA2s are associated with moderate or high coping or adaptive capacity but, in general, outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s are associated with low coping and adaptive capacity (Table 2.5). There are also some SA2s in metropolitan and inner regional areas associated with low coping and adaptive capacity (Table 2.5).

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Table 2.4: Population and land area associated with low, moderate and high coping and adaptive capacity

			COT INCI CAT ACT I		
		Low <25th percentile 0 – 0.4737	Moderate 25th – 75th percentile 0.4738 – 0.6613	High >75th percentile 0.6614 – 1	_
	Low <25th percentile 0 – 0.4732	Population*# 2,661,886 (10.2%)	Population 3,478,978 (13.4%)	Population 340,522 (1.3%)	
()		Area^ 6,363,377 km² (83.2%)	Area 64,766km² (0.8%)	Area 2,181 km² (0.03%)	
ADAPTIVE	Moderate 25th – 75th percentile 0.4733 – 0.6452	Population 2,051,336 (7.9%)	Population 7,724,189 (29.8%)	Population 3,516,760 (13.5%)	_
CAPACITY		Area 721,564 km² (9.4%)	Area 282,280 km ² (3.7%)	Area 54,388 km ² (0.7%)	
	High >75th percentile 0.6453 – 1	Population 336,202 (1.3%)	Population 2,648,082 (10.2%)	Population 3,235,450 (12.5%)	
		Area 12,369 km² (0.2%)	Area 87,829 km² (1.1%)	Area 56,050 km² (0.7%)	

^{*} Populations were computed using ABS Estimated Resident population as of 30 June 2022.

[#] All values exclude SA2s not used in the Index. The total population in SA2s used in the Index is 25,993,405 people. The total population in SA2s not used in the Index is a further 12,135 people.

All values exclude SA2s not used in the Index. The land area of SA2s used in the Index is 7,644,804 km². The land area of SA2s not used in the Index is a further 43,483 km².

Table 2.5: Remoteness associations with low, moderate and high coping and adaptive capacity. Figures are the population and percentage of total population in each remoteness category.

Remoteness codes: M = metropolitan; IR = inner regional; OR = outer regional; R = remote; VR = very remote

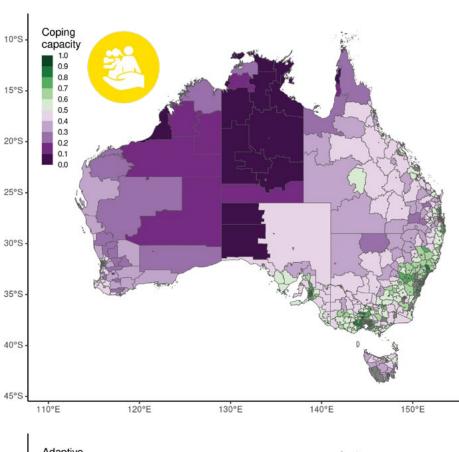


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			Low <25th percentile 0 – 0.4737	Moderate 25th – 75th percentile 0.4738 – 0.6613	High >75th percentile 0.6614 – 1	
	Low	M	1,620,047 (6.2%)*#	2,863,226 (11.0%)	334,138 (1.3%)	
	<25th percentile 0 – 0.4732	IR	264,812 (1.0%)	381,947 (1.5%)	6,384 (<0.1%)	
		OR	417,087 (1.6%)	199,261 (0.8%)	0%	
		R	216,182 (0.8%)	26,608 (0.1%)	0%	
		VR	143,758 (0.6%)	7,936 (<0.1%)	0%	
REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY	Moderate 25th – 75th	M	114,610 (4.4%)	5,334,066 (20.5%)	2,752,561 (10.6%	
	percentile 0.4733 – 0.6452	IR	408,318 (1.6%	1,663,846 (6.4%)	753,019 (2.9%)	
ADAPTIVE CAPACITY	0.4733 - 0.0432	OR	480,077 (1.9%)	691,920 (2.7%)	11,180 (0.1%)	
		R	12,860 (0.1%)	33,426 (0.1%)	0%	
		VR	5,471 (<0.1%)	931 (<0.1%)	0%	
	High >75th percentile	M	307,913 (1.2%)	2,200,477 (8.5%)	2,690,295 (10.3%)	
	0.6453 – 1	IR	28,289 (0.1%)	398,401 (1.5%)	537,390 (2.1%)	
		OR	0%	49,204 (0.2%)	7,765 (<0.1%)	
		R	0%	0%	0%	
		VR	0%	0%	0%	

^{*} Populations were computed using ABS Estimated Resident population as of 30 June 2022.

[#] All values exclude SA2s not used in the Index. The total population in SA2s used in the Index is 25,993,405 people. The total population in SA2s not used in the Index is a further 12,135 people.



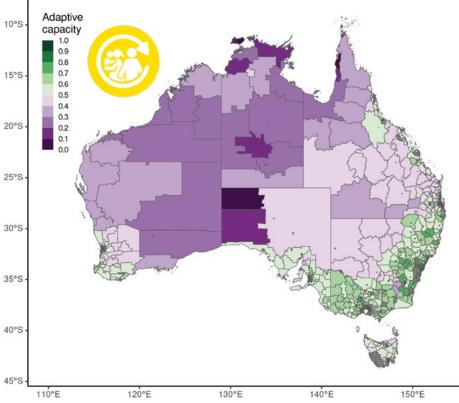


Figure 2.3: Coping (top) and adaptive capacity (bottom) in Australia, assessed using ADRI-2. The sub-index ranges from 0 to 1, where lower coping or adaptive capacity and 1 is higher coping or adaptive capacity



2.2.2 Implications of the spatial distribution of coping and adaptive capacity in Australia

Coping capacity captures the characteristics of a system that allow it to anticipate, act, achieve goals and manage resources, or which are associated with absorptive capacity and mobilisation when a natural hazard event occurs (Parsons et al. 2016). Adaptation is the decision-making processes and actions undertaken to adjust to current or future predicted change. The capacities which enable adaptation are related to the existence of institutions and networks that learn and store knowledge and experience, create flexibility in problem solving and balance power among interest groups (Parsons et al. 2016). ADRI's design takes the view that coping and adaptation emerge from social processes that develop and support the capacities required to anticipate and withstand adverse events such as natural hazards.

Most (66%) of Australia's population, or approximately 17.1 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having a combination of high or moderate coping capacity and high or moderate adaptive capacity. Communities with these combinations of coping and adaptive capacities are supported by social processes that develop the capacities to anticipate and withstand adverse events and to adjust to current or predicted change. Areas of moderate and high coping and adaptive capacities tend to occur in the most highly populated areas of metropolitan and inner regional Australia.

The remaining 34% of Australia's population, or approximately 8.9 million people, live in SA2s assessed as having some combination of low coping capacity and low adaptive capacity. These areas are largely located in outer regional, remote and very remote areas and face constraints on the ability to anticipate and withstand unpredictable and adverse events and to adjust to current or future predicted change.



2.3 Disaster resilience themes: ADRI-2

The third level of the disaster resilience assessment considers the eight theme sub-indexes. Each sub-index ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 representing the lowest capacity and 1 representing the highest capacity. The proportion of SA2s in each remoteness class was tallied to show the distribution of the theme sub-indexes across Australia.

2.3.1 Social character

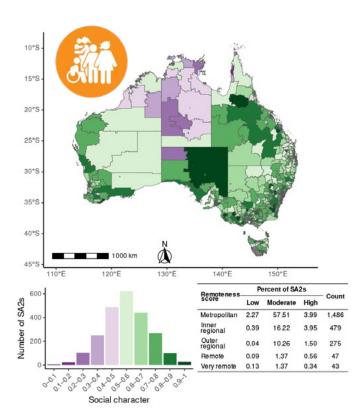
Social character represents the social and demographic factors that influence the ability to prepare for and recover from a natural hazard event (Appendix 1). Visually, there is a mixed distribution of social character throughout Australia (Figure 2.4). The SA2s within most remoteness classes have moderate social character, although SA2s with high or low social character also occur in each remoteness class (Figure 2.4).

2.3.2 Economic capital

10°S

15°S

Economic capital represents the economic factors that influence the ability to prepare for and recover from a natural hazard (Appendix 1). Visually, there is a mixed distribution of economic capital throughout Australia (Figure 2.5). The SA2s within most remoteness classes have moderate economic capital (Figure 2.5). SA2s with high economic capital are associated with metropolitan and inner regional areas and SA2s with low economic capital are associated with remote and very remote areas (Figure 2.5).



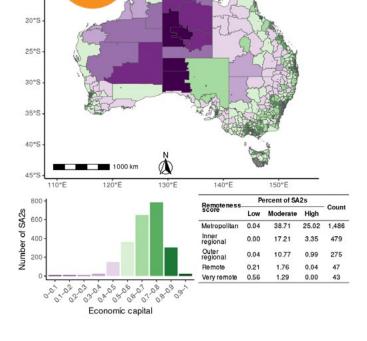


Figure 2.4: Distribution of social character sub-index values: ADRI-2

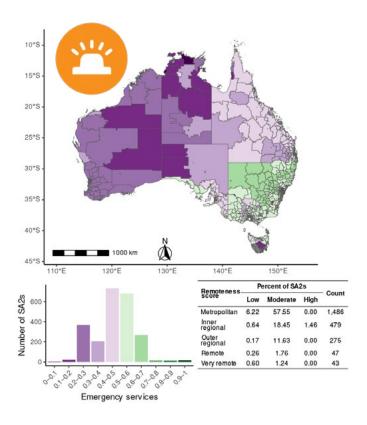
Figure 2.5: Distribution of economic capital sub-index values: ADRI-2

2.3.3 Emergency services

Emergency services represent the presence, capability and resourcing of emergency services and the potential to respond to a natural hazard event (Appendix 1). Visually, there is a mixed distribution of capacity in emergency services across Australia (Figure 2.6). Regardless of remoteness, most SA2s are associated with moderate emergency service capacity. Relatively few SA2s are associated with high capacity in emergency services and low capacity in emergency services is associated with some metropolitan SA2s (Figure 2.6).

2.3.4 Planning and the built environment

Planning and the built environment represents the preparation for natural hazard events using strategies of mitigation, planning or risk management (Appendix 1). Visually, there is a mixed distribution of capacity in planning and the built environment across Australia (Figure 2.7). Most of the moderate capacity in planning and the built environment is associated with metropolitan and inner regional areas (Figure 2.7). Areas of low capacity in planning and the built environment occur in all remoteness classes (Figure 2.7).





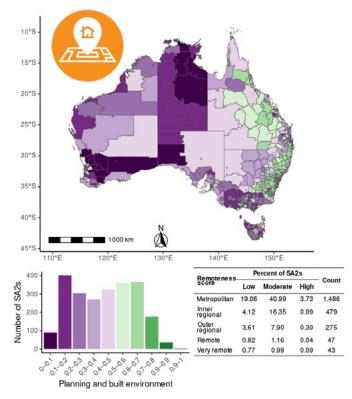


Figure 2.7: Distribution of planning and the built environment sub-index values: ADRI-2

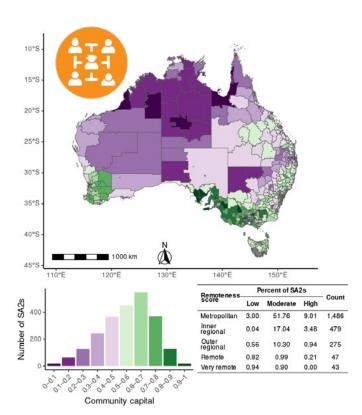


2.3.5 Community capital

Community capital represents the cohesion and connectedness of the community (Appendix 1). Visually, areas of moderate to high community capital are distributed through the eastern, southern and southwestern periphery of Australia (Figure 2.8). Most SA2s in inner regional and outer regional areas are associated with moderate to high community capital (Figure 2.8). Metropolitan areas are also associated with moderate to high community capital, but some metropolitan SA2s have low community capital (Figure 2.8).

2.3.6 Information access

Information access represents the potential for communities to engage with natural hazard information (Appendix 1). Most of remote and very remote Australia is associated with lower information access (Figure 2.9). Information access is highest in metropolitan and inner regional areas (Figure 2.9).





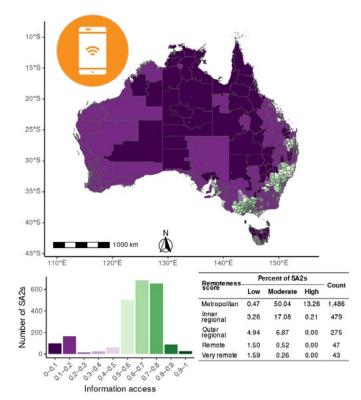


Figure 2.9: Distribution of information access sub-index values: ADRI-2

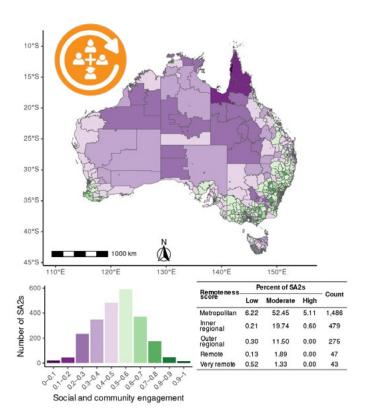


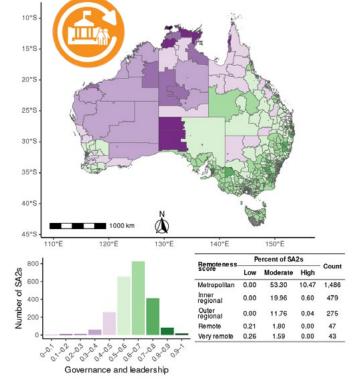
2.3.7 Social and community engagement

Social and community engagement represents the adaptive capacity with communities to learn and transform in the face of complex change (Appendix 1). Areas of moderate social and community engagement occur in the eastern, southern and southwestern periphery of Australia (Figure 2.10). High social and community engagement tends to be associated with metropolitan areas (Figure 2.10). Social and community engagement values decrease with remoteness (Figure 2.10).

2.3.8 Governance and leadership

Governance and leadership represents the adaptive capacity within organisations to adaptively learn, review and adjust policies or procedures, or to transform organisational practices (Appendix 1). Areas of moderate governance and leadership occur in all remoteness classes (Figure 2.11). SA2s with high governance and leadership tend to occur in metropolitan areas while SA2s with low governance and leadership tend to occur in remote and very remote areas (Figure 2.11).





 $\textbf{Figure 2.10:} \ \textbf{Distribution of social and community engagement sub-index values: ADRI-2}$

Figure 2.11: Distribution of governance and leadership sub-index values: ADRI-2

3. Comparing ADRI-1 and ADRI-2

3.1 Limitations of comparing ADRI-1 and ADRI-2

ADRI-2 was delivered as a stand-alone product, a revised Australian Disaster Resilience Index current in 2024.

While comparisons between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 are potentially worthwhile, at this stage findings should be approached with caution because statistical analyses have not yet been undertaken to verify the directionality and significance of change.

This report limits comparisons between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 to the population associated with bands of high, moderate and low disaster resilience and the distribution of disaster resilience index values by remoteness categories. Change between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 is a preliminary assessment of the apparent directionality but requires further statistical and geographical verification.

Research on the comparisons between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 were out of scope of this project. Further research needs to be undertaken to:

- reconcile changes in SA2 boundaries between 2011 and 2021
- determine the drivers of increases and decreases in ADRI index values in SA2s
- explore and test options for computing and displaying longitudinal increases and decreases in capacity for disaster resilience at SA2 level
- understand ADRI-1 to ADRI-2 index variation and thresholds of change in relation to sensitivity parameters
- → understand drivers of changes in disaster resilience profiles (typology groups).



3.2 Disaster resilience in Australia over time: ADRI-1 to ADRI-2

3.2.1 Capacity for disaster resilience

The proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience did not change between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1). However, the proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience increased from 16% to 21% between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1). Similarly, the proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience decreased from 32% to 25% between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1).

These changes are not visually apparent on the overall maps of disaster resilience, where at first glance it appears that areas of greater capacity for disaster resilience (green areas) have increased between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Figure 3.1). Arrayed as bands of low, moderate and high disaster resilience, however, there is little visual difference between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 values (Figure 3.2). There is some change in the overall distribution of ADRI scores, where the shape of the distribution becomes more symmetric in ADRI-2 compared to ADRI-1, with a higher median ADRI index and flattening of the tails of the distribution (Figure 3.3). Concomitantly, the boundaries of the low, moderate and high quartiles have influenced the population profiles. Further research work is required to understand the sources and significance of these changes.

3.2.2 Remoteness

Much of the increase in the proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience is located in metropolitan areas, increasing from 5.3% in ADRI-1 to 15.2% in ADRI-2 (Table 3.1). Concomitantly, the proportion of Australia's population living in metropolitan SA2s assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience decreased from 29% to 21% (Table 3.1).

The trend is opposite for inner regional SA2s. The proportion of the inner regional population in SA2s assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience decreased slightly and the proportion of the inner regional population assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience increased slightly (Table 3.1).

In remote and very remote SA2s, the proportion of the population assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience decreased slightly between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1).

3.2.3 Coping and adaptive capacity

The proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed and having low or moderate coping capacity decreased between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1). The population associated with SA2s with high coping capacity increased between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1).

The opposite trend occurs with adaptive capacity. The proportion of Australia's population living in SA2s assessed as having low or moderate adaptive capacity increased between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1). The population associated with SA2s with high adaptive capacity decreased between ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Comparison of ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 disaster resilience statistics. Increase or decrease is a preliminary assessment of the directionality of change, but requires further statistical verification of the significance of the magnitude of change.

Descriptor	ADRI-1	ADRI-2	Increase or decrease
Disaster resilience			
Proportion of population with low capacity for disaster resilience (%)	16.1	22.8	Increase
Proportion of population with moderate capacity for disaster resilience (%)	51.8	52.0	No change
Proportion of population with high capacity for disaster resilience (%)	32.1	25.2	Decrease
By remoteness			
Proportion of population in metropolitan SA2s with low capacity for disaster resilience (%)	5.3	15.2	Increase
Proportion of population in metropolitan SA2s with moderate capacity for disaster resilience (%)	36.7	37.8	No change
Proportion of population in metropolitan SA2s with high capacity for disaster resilience (%)	29.2	21.0	Decrease
Proportion of population in inner regional SA2s with low capacity for disaster resilience (%)	4.2	2.8	Decrease
Proportion of population in inner regional SA2s with moderate capacity for disaster resilience (%)	11.1	10.1	No change
Proportion of population in inner regional SA2s with high capacity for disaster resilience (%)	2.8	4.1	Increase
Proportion of population in outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s with low capacity for disaster resilience (%)	6.5	4.8	Decrease
Proportion of population in outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s with moderate capacity for disaster resilience (%)	4.0	4.0	No change
Proportion of population in outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s with high capacity for disaster resilience (%)	<0.1	<0.1	No change
Coping capacity			
Proportion of population with low coping capacity (%)	22.9	19.5	Decrease
Proportion of population with moderate coping capacity (%)	59.4	52.3	Decrease
Proportion of population with high coping capacity (%)	17.7	27.3	Increase
Adaptive capacity			
Proportion of population with low adaptive capacity (%)	17.7	24.9	Increase
Proportion of population with moderate adaptive capacity (%)	48.2	51.2	Increase
Proportion of population with high adaptive capacity (%)	34.1	23.9	Decrease

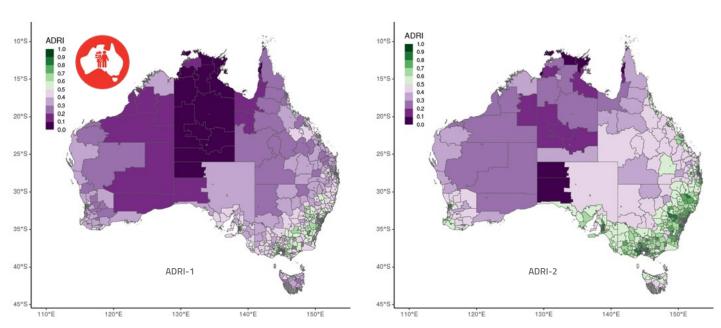


Figure 3.1: National scale distribution of ADRI-1 (left) and ADRI-2 (right)

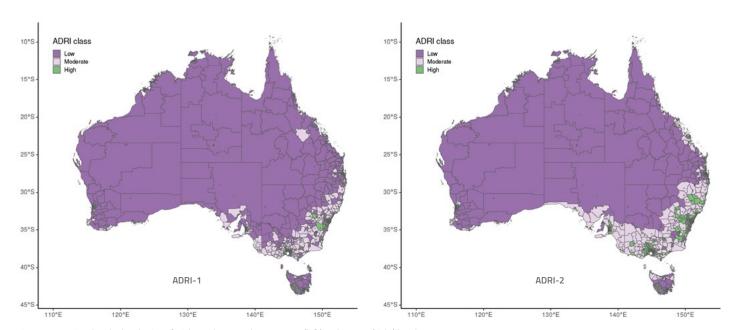


Figure 3.2: National scale distribution of High, Moderate and Low ADRI-1 (left) and ADRI-2 (right) bands

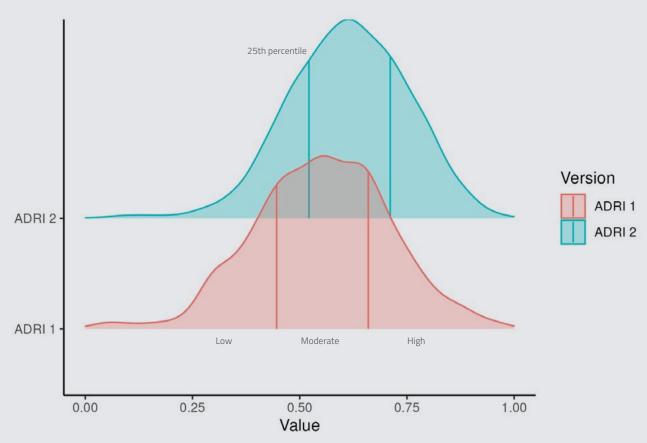


Figure 3.3: Comparative distribution of the ADRI-1 and ADRI-2 index values, showing low (25th percentile), moderate (25th to 75th percentile) and high (75th percentile) bands

4. Disaster Resilience Profiles: ADRI-2

The themes that influence disaster resilience in different locations in Australia are summarised using a typology. A typology identifies SA2s that have similar characteristic patterns of theme sub-index values and places these SA2s together into groups. The SA2s within a group are similar to each other but each group has a different set of barriers and enablers to their capacity for disaster resilience. The profiles can be used to understand disaster resilience in local communities and the strengths and opportunities for building and supporting disaster resilience.

4.1 Identifying the profiles

Cluster analysis revealed three groups of SA2s, each with a different disaster resilience profile. There was some structure in the three clusters. However, the designation of themes as strengths, or barriers, to disaster resilience was directional, but weak. High, moderate and low theme sub-index values were associated with each group. Group 1 is associated with lower information access than Groups 2 and 3 (Figure 4.1). Group 2 is associated with low planning and the built environment while Group 2 is associated with high planning and the built environment (Figure 4.1).

Based on the relative distribution of theme index scores, themes can be designated as high, moderate or low in each group (Table 4.1). Because of the reduced ADRI-2 group structure, an additional designation of 'mixed' was given where the distribution of theme index scores indicated a range in the potential for a theme to constitute a strength, or a barrier, to disaster resilience (Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1).

Indicator value distributions for PAM clusters Governance and Community capital Economic capital **Emergency services** leadership 1.00 0.75 25th percentile 75th percentile 0.50 0.25 0.00 Value Planning and built Social and community Social character Information access engagement 1.00 0.75 0.50 0.25 0.00 Cluster

Figure 4.1: Index values for individual themes, arrayed by typology groups. The horizontal 25th and 75th percentile lines are for each theme overall, using all 2,330 SA2 values. Box plots show the median, 25th – 75th percentile and the interquartile range for the SA2s in each typology group.

Table 4.1: Classification of typology groups into bands of high (H), moderate (M) and low (L) capacity for each disaster resilience theme. Low = median <25th percentile of overall theme index value, moderate = median in 50th – 75th percentile of overall theme index value, high = median >75th percentile of overall theme index value. Cases marked with * have a median that falls on or very close to the boundary between two bands, or with many outliers. Boxplots showing the index values are presented in Figure 4.1.

	Typology group			
1	2	3		
Н	М	M/L*		
L	М	М		
М	М	М		
М	L	Н		
М	Н	M		
L	М	M		
М	М	M		
M/L*	М	M		
	H L M M L	1 2 H M L M M M H L M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M		

4.2 Disaster resilience profiles - ADRI-2

Groups have characteristic associations with population, land area and remoteness (Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2) and with overall disaster resilience index values (Table 4.3).

Group 2 represents over 12 million people, in 1,107 SA2s covering 2% of Australia's land area. Group 2 is dominated by SA2s from metropolitan and inner regional areas.

Group 3 represents approximately 11 million people, in 827 SA2s covering 1% of Australia's land area. Group 3 is dominated by SA2s from metropolitan and inner regional areas.

Group 1 represents approximately 2.5 million people, in 396 SA2s covering 97% of Australia's land area. Group 1 is dominated by SA2s from outer regional, remote and very remote areas. Group 1 has the lowest median disaster resilience index value and lower coping and adaptive capacity.

Table 4.2: Population, land area and remoteness associated with ADRI-2 typology groups. Percentages are the proportion of SA2s in each remoteness category across typology groups and sum horizontally.

	Typology group				
Population, land area and remoteness	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3		
Population*#	2,556,351	12,401,087	11,035,967		
Proportion of population (%)	10 48		42		
Land area (km²)^	7,433,851	155,131	55,823		
Land area^(%)	97	2	1		
Number of SA2s+	396	1107	827		
Metropolitan SA2s ^{\$}	24 (2%)	859 (58%)	603 (41%)		
Inner regional SA2s ^{\$}	171 (36%)	165 (34%)	143 (30%)		
Outer regional SA2s ^{\$}	128 (47%)	75 (27%)	72 (26%)		
Remote SA2s ^{\$}	36 (77%)	5 (11%)	6 (13%)		
Very remote SA2s ^{\$}	37 (86%)	3 (7%)	3 (7%)		

^{*} Computed using ABS Estimated Resident population as of 30 June 2022.

- + Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. Of the 2,472 SA2s in the ASGS 2021, 2,330 were used in the Index and 142 excluded.
- \$ ABS remoteness structure, ASGS 2021.

[#] Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. The total population in SA2s used in the Index is 25,993,405 people. The total population in SA2s not used in the Index is a further 12,135 people.

Excludes SA2s not used in the Index. The land area of SA2s used in the Index is 7,644,804 km². The land area of SA2s not used in the Index is a further 43,483 km².

 $\label{thm:control} \textbf{Table 4.3:} \ \ \textbf{Disaster resilience index}, coping capacity and adaptive capacity index values associated with ADRI-2 typology groups (SD = standard deviation and CV = coefficient of variation)$

		Typology group		
		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
	Mean	0.5400	0.6590	0.5840
Disaster resilience index	SD	0.16	0.13	0.114
Disaster resilience index	CV	0.026	0.018	0.013
	Median	0.5510	0.6650	0.5880
	Mean	0.4640	0.5870	0.5850
Coning conneits index	SD	0.16	0.13	0.12
Coping capacity index	cv	0.027	0.017	0.014
	Median	0.4640	0.5920	0.5880
	Mean	0.5280	0.6140	0.5120
Adaptive canacity index	SD	0.14	0.13	0.098
Adaptive capacity index	CV CV	0.019	0.016	0.010
	Median	0.5490	0.6160	0.5120

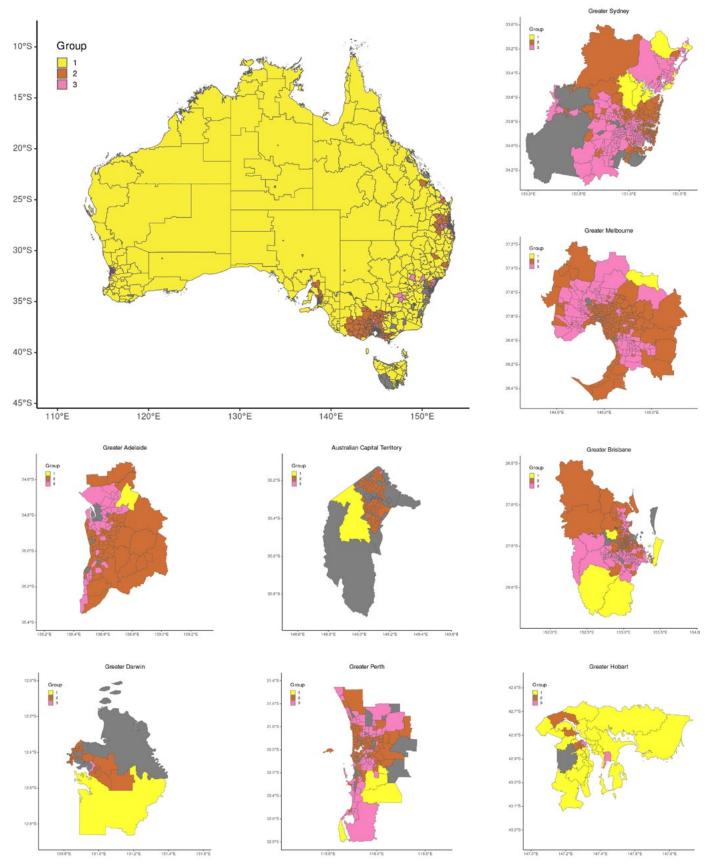


Figure 4.2: Disaster resilience groups in Australia, assessed using ADRI-2

4.2.1 Disaster Resilience Profile Group 1

SA2s with the Group 1 profile have strengths contributed by Social character, Emergency services, Planning and the built environment, Community capital, and Social and community engagement (Table 4.4). Barriers to disaster resilience in SA2s with the Group 1 profile are Economic capital and Information access (Table 4.4). These communities have economic characteristics that may constrain their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazard events and a constrained capacity to engage with natural hazard information and to access knowledge associated with natural hazard preparation, self-reliance and response. Most of the outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s are associated with Group 1. Group 1 also contains many inner regional SA2s but very few metropolitan SA2s.

Table 4.4: Overview of the disaster resilience profile of Typology Group 1

Typology group	Group 1	
Number of SA2s	396	
Mean ADRI value	0.5400	
Approximate population and proportion of total	2.5 million 10%	
Land area and proportion of total	7.5 million km² 97%	
Remoteness	2% Metropolitan 36% Inner regional 47% Outer regional 77% Remote 86% Very remote	
Disaster resilience strengths	Social character (High)	
	Emergency services, Planning and the built environment, Community capital, Social and community engagement (Moderate)	
Disaster resilience barriers	Economic capital, Information access (Low)	
	Governance and leadership (Moderate to Low)	

4.2.2 Disaster Resilience Profile Group 2

SA2s with the Group 2 profile have strengths contributed by Community capital, Social character, Economic capital, Emergency services, Information access, Social and community engagement, and Governance and leadership (Table 4.5). Barriers to disaster resilience in SA2s with the Group 2 profile are Planning and the built environment (Table 4.5). Planning systems and the character of the built environment may constrain the capacity of these communities to prepare for natural hazard events using strategies of mitigation, planning or risk management. Most of the SA2s associated with Group 2 are in metropolitan and inner regional areas, although some outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s have the Group 2 profile.

Table 4.5: Overview of the disaster resilience profile of Typology Group 2

Typology group	Group 2	
Number of SA2s	1107	
Mean ADRI value	0.6590	
Approximate population and proportion of total	12.4 million 48%	
Land area and proportion of total	0.15 million km² 2%	
Remoteness	58% Metropolitan 34% Inner regional 27% Outer regional 11% Remote 7% Very remote	
Disaster resilience strengths	Community capital (High)	餅
	Social character, Economic capital, Emergency services, Information access, Social and community engagement, Governance and leadership (Moderate)	
Disaster resilience barriers	Planning and the built environment (Low)	

4.2.3 Disaster Resilience Profile Group 3

SA2s with the Group 3 profile have strengths contributed by Planning and the built environment, Economic capital, Emergency services, Information access, Community capital, Social and community engagement, and Governance and leadership (Table 4.6). Barriers to disaster resilience in SA2s with the Group 3 profile are social character, although social character varies from moderate to low as a barrier (Table 4.6). These communities may have social and demographic characteristics that constrain their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazard events. Most of the SA2s associated with Group 3 are in metropolitan and inner regional areas, although some outer regional, remote and very remote SA2s have the Group 3 profile.

Table 4.6: Overview of the disaster resilience profile of Typology Group 3

		74- L/
Typology group	Group 3	5-4-75-
Number of SA2s	827	
Mean ADRI value	0.5844	
Approximate population and proportion of total	11 million 42%	
Land area and proportion of total	0.05 million km² 1%	
Remoteness	41% Metropolitan 30% Inner regional 26% Outer regional 13% Remote 7% Very remote	
Disaster resilience strengths	Planning and the built environment (High) Economic capital, Emergency services, Information access, Community capital, Social and community engagement, Governance and leadership (Moderate)	
Disaster resilience barriers	Social character (Moderate – Low)	

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