

A photograph of a man standing in a dense tropical forest, looking up at a massive tree trunk. The man is wearing a blue tank top and yellow pants. The tree trunk is covered in moss and has a rough, textured bark. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and lush green foliage.

NIMBIN COMMUNITY

DISASTER PLAN

Source: Darcy Grant

Respond, Recover, Prepare and Prevent – February 2023



Jingi Walla Mala Widjabul Djungun
(Welcome to Widjabul Country)

You are standing on the country of the Wia-bal people of the Widjabul clan of the Bundjalung Nation

Garrimah mala widjabul djungun
(Please Respect Widjabul Country)

Leave only your footprints behind you
Always was, Always Will be, Aboriginal Land

Gilbert Laurie

Source: Welcome to Nimbin Kit

Acknowledgement of Country

The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land over which this document was prepared, the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation, and we pay our respect to all Aboriginal people of this land and to Elders past, present and future.

Through understanding the significant knowledge and practice of Caring for Country by traditional custodians of the land, together we can build a more resilient and prosperous community.



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Nimbin and surrounding community	5
Community profile	5
Community organisations.....	5
Vulnerable people in our community.....	5
Community assets.....	6
A Community Disaster Plan.....	7
What is a Community Disaster Plan?.....	7
Why do we need a Plan?.....	7
What disasters does this Plan include?.....	8
Our partnership with Lismore City Council.....	8
Where to get more information?.....	8
Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds.....	9
The impacts of climate change.....	9
Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds.....	10
Bushfires – 2019/2020.....	11
Floods – 2022.....	12
Bushfires.....	14
Flooding.....	15
Storm events & East Coast lows.....	16
Landslips.....	17
Heatwaves.....	18

Drought.....	19
Development of-the-Plan.....	20
Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee.....	20
After Action Reviews.....	20
Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group.....	20
The involvement of Lismore City Council.....	20
Survey – January 2021.....	21
Key impacts from bushfires.....	21
Communication methods.....	21
Preparing for future disasters.....	21
Ideas for disaster management.....	21
Workshops.....	23
Review of the Plan.....	24
Survey - December 2022.....	25
Emergency management mode.....	27
Goals	28
Prevention & Preparedness Plan.....	29
What are we doing?.....	29
Who is doing what?.....	29
When are we doing it?.....	29
Response and Recovery Plan.....	43
PHASES.....	43

Working Together.....54
Appendix A - Roles of all stakeholders.....55

Appendix B - Maps of fire prone and flood prone land.....57

Introduction

Nimbin and surrounds is a unique area mostly due to the community-based settlements fostered by the alternative lifestyle movement of the 1970s. Its colonial past is that of a dairy farming region both strongly self-reliant and hardworking. Since the 1970s it has developed into a unique, inclusive, vibrant, environmentally focused community as well.

It is surrounded by three World Heritage listed rainforests and is one of the most biodiverse areas in Australia. Our community passionately values our exceptional environment and identifies strongly with it.

Nimbin is a special place with its own problems and its own solutions. It is at once both isolated in terms of services and patterns of living and yet strongly connected through community organisations and the collective ownership. Few other places in Australia require a plan as specific and yet dynamic and malleable as the people of Nimbin.

The way of living which has developed over the years in Nimbin has allowed a freedom of expression and development of especially sustainable and environmentally low impact housing. However, this has created some issues such as people living in minimalistic housing in isolated and often heavily vegetated and under serviced areas with poor roads and infrastructure. Our community has incredible resource in its people and the community connections between them that provides opportunities to address natural disasters that other less unified and collectively run community could not hope to attain.

Thanks in large part to climate change our dispersed, diverse, unique and growing community faces increasingly frequent and increasingly large natural disasters. This includes notable prolonged heat waves and droughts, sudden severe flooding, wildfires in rainforests, sizable landslips and torrential storm events.

In this era of information overload, social isolation and social media misinformation our highly mobile and transitory population requires the provision of essential information in a succinct and timely manner. This document provides that information and links to reliable sources of information that the people of Nimbin will need during natural disasters.

This Disaster Plan is designed to guide the community in preparing for, responding to and recovering from, natural disaster. It aims to integrate community, individuals and all the layers of government in a time of disaster. It captures and provides essential information, and provides a guide for action in the natural disasters we are increasingly facing. It is a plan that will assist everyone be they visitor, community member, community organisation or government agency to successfully survive these coming events.

Contact the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group to be involved in putting the strategy into action.

Email: nimbindisasterresiliencgroup@gmail.com

Nimbin and surrounding community

Community profile

Our community comprises the village of Nimbin and a variety of rural interests, including grazing and cropping, environmental protection areas, and intentional communities.

The culture in Nimbin was forged from the Aquarius Festival in 1973, which encouraged people to live in the area seeking an alternative lifestyle. Many intentional communities were formed following the festival.

Our community is south/south-west of Nightcap National Park. Nightcap National Park was the first declared national park in NSW due to the local community's actions. Natural beauty is extremely important to our community, and our love for the environment is reflected in how we live sustainably.

Nimbin is located within the boundaries of the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation, the traditional custodians of the land. The Nimbin Rocks are a sacred Widjabul Wia-bal site and significant place for men's initiations. Lillian rocks is also a sacred site being a place for women's business. The number of First Nations' people in our community is 50% higher than the State and National averages.

Nimbin is home to iconic landscapes, environmental attributes and a sense of community and identity that sets it apart. These unique attributes go to the community's

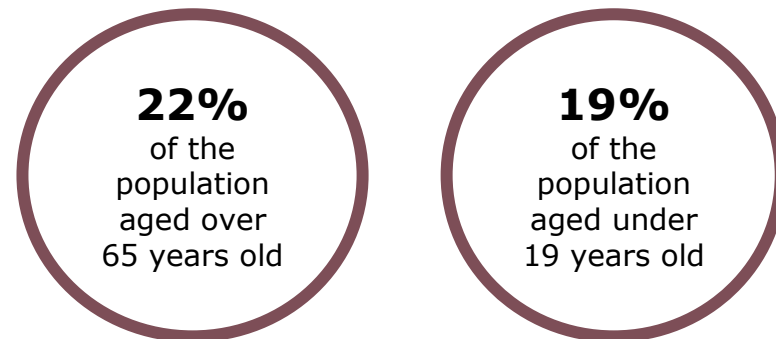
very heart and form a significant part of our individual and collective community values.

Community organisations

The sense of community connectedness is one of the recognised strengths for Nimbin. Our community has incredible resources in its people with a strong culture of volunteering. A list of local community organisations and contacts is maintained by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit. This list provides important connections within our community and is a source of important resources for use before, during and after a disaster.

Vulnerable people in our community

The catchment area of Nimbin includes some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged population in Australia with high unemployment, low median household income levels and poor access to transport. The way of living has also created some issues such as people living in minimalistic housing in isolated and often heavily vegetated and under serviced areas with poor roads and infrastructure. This makes some people in our community more vulnerable to the risks and impacts of disasters.



Community assets

Nimbin has a proud history of purchasing property which is owned and operated by the community via various community organisations.

The purchase of these assets was made possible by the hard work and determination of our community. A list of community owned and operated assets is maintained by NNIC in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit.

These assets are an important strength to our community in the event of a disaster.

They also require ongoing management and maintenance, which relies upon people in our community generously volunteering time and energy to these tasks.



“ *Keep working and doing things as a community because that's where strength and resilience is fostered.* **”**

Nimbin Disaster Survey 2021

A Community Disaster Plan

What is a Community Disaster Plan?

The Nimbin Disaster Plan is a practical and community driven approach to supporting and guiding our community to becoming more resilient during, after and between disaster events.

Prior to the bushfires and floods, the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan 2016-2021 identified the need to prepare a community disaster plan. This Disaster Plan was first developed in early 2021 and has since been reviewed and updated by the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group members, taking account of the experiences of the community in the 2022 Flood events.

This Plan acknowledges the extensive impact of the 2019/2020 bushfire season and the 2022 extreme La Nina/flood season and builds upon what was learned from those events. It also aims to inform processes to ensure that our community achieves continued support to navigate the long, personal journey of recovery.

Why do we need a Plan?

Nimbin has experienced many natural disasters including the devastating bushfires in 2019/2020 and the 2022 extreme La Nina/flood season. Floods, storms and bushfires are a significant ongoing annual threat.

Due to climate change, future events will likely be experienced at a greater intensity and frequency, increasing the impacts and the need to be prepared and work together.

As a community, we need to better understand these risks and how to live with an increased threat of all natural disasters in a way that prepares us to protect what is most important and forge a path forward, to thrive, and grow as a close community.



A community that is prepared for disasters by having necessary arrangements in place to deal with the potential impacts will be a more resilient community and one that will return to the pre-disaster state or adapt to a 'new normal' more quickly than a community that is not prepared.

What disasters does this Plan include?

This Plan considers the natural disasters that occur in our area including:

- bushfire
- flood
- storm event
- drought
- landslip
- heatwave

Whilst the Plan does not directly deal with other disasters like earthquakes, pandemics or infrastructure failure, there will be occasions where such events do invoke some elements of the Plan such as maintaining communication channels with more vulnerable members of the community as occurred during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Our partnership with Lismore City Council

The Disaster Plan was originally created in partnership with Lismore City Council (Council). Council is committed to strengthening the local community capacity to respond and recover effectively in future disasters. The impact of the 2019/ 2020 bushfires on the Nimbin community was identified and Council recognised the opportunity for our community to reflect on, and learn from, our experience and to develop a specific placed based disaster recovery plan. The project was made possible through Council with funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience & Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 (BCRERF Phase 1), which was provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Since that time, the community been working to implement the Plan and in 2022 undertook an evaluation process which has led to its updating and the inclusion of the Response and Recovery Plan.

Where to get more information?

A detailed description of the lead agencies that have a shared responsibility for emergency management is set out in Appendix A.

Where are our evacuation centres?

Evacuation centres are opened by the Police, the RFS or SES during an emergency or disaster. At the time of the event, check for current information about what centres are open. This may include:

Nimbin Showgrounds 33-37 Cecil St, Nimbin

Lismore Showgrounds, Alexandra Parade,
North Lismore

Southern Cross University
Military Road, East Lismore



To report an emergency call Triple Zero (000)



Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds

The impacts of climate change

Climate change will have implications for every area of our lives – our work, food production and food security, access to water, energy production and use, where we live, home design and sustainability, our health and mental health. We know that the impact of climate change means there will be more frequent and potentially devastating weather events to come.

Disasters are expected to expose our community to previously unknown risks. This means a greater emphasis on understanding the likely impacts, and preparing for them, will be integral to mitigating those risks.



For up to date information about disasters in Lismore LGA visit the Disaster Dashboard:

<https://disaster.lismore.nsw.gov.au/>



Bushfires 2019/2020

Source: Darcy Grant

Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds

Throughout Nimbin's history, our community has experienced significant and devastating natural disasters. The subtropical climate characterised by hot and humid summers and dry, mild winters, Nimbin's unique geography, and the winding rivers combine to create an environment that heightens our susceptibility to storms and flood events.

During the summer months, severe storms with hail, damaging winds and heavy rainfall are common. These storms can result in flooding from the rivers, local creeks, and overland. The most immediate impact is damage to roads and bridges and many people are cut off or are forced to leave their homes, and normal life is disrupted. The latest flood in March 2022 was declared a natural disaster (see details on page 12).

Storms can also result in landslips within the area, especially given our steep landscape. Following Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and the March 2022 Floods there were a significant number of landslips. This caused substantial damage to roads, homes and vegetation.

With long summers in Nimbin, the risk of prolonged drought is an emerging climate change-related issue, increasing the risk of bushfires. Nimbin's peak risk for bushfires usually occurs from spring to mid-summer (September to January each year). The 2019/ 2020 bushfires had devastating effects on our community and environment (see details on the next page).



Bushfires – 2019/2020

The 2019/2020 bushfires represented an unprecedented event for Nimbin. Drought and widespread, protracted heatwave conditions combined with gusty winds created a catastrophic fire danger.

Starting within the Nightcap National Park/Mt Nardi, the bushfire of November 2019 quickly spread to neighbouring properties. During this time, the Nimbin community gathered to defend the fire and assist the RFS volunteers. Known as The Defenders, community members actively helped protect and create containment lines to save homes and the forest.

The first sighting of the fire originated on Friday, 8 November 2019. This fire soon spread to the south onto the Nicholson's property and east onto Tumble Falls community on 9 November 2019. By Wednesday 13 November, the fire reached the Siddha Farm community and onto Rainbow Falls Community on the western side of Terania valley.

The most intense period lasted for 5 to 7 days from 15 - 20 November 2019 on Tumble and on Siddha Farm and Rainbow Falls Community. There were up to 130 people defending the fires on the ground between the three communities at its peak.

By early December the fire has spread across some 6650 hectares. These were extremely intense days for our community and the local RFS brigades involved.

While many people during this period were on the fire fronts, there were many hubs located at Tumble, Siddha and Rainbow Falls communities, and the Nimbin CWA *Food for Furies* at the Nimbin Town Hall. These hubs were a vital meeting point and information source for many community members and tourists. The *Food for Furies* estimated they fed up between 60 and 257 people a meal two times a day. The Nimbin CWA was also integral in organising approximately 200 volunteers across various jobs during the fires.

The bushfires have had a devastating impact on the Nimbin economy, environment and wellbeing of our community. With the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in NSW in 2020, there has been a significant loss in tourism expenditure.

Lost income continues to impact businesses, staff, supply chains and our community, resulting in instability, uncertainty and acute stress. These impacts amplify the ongoing challenges of drought, flooding in December 2020 and other contributing factors.



We are not used to fires up here and it was a shocking reality check.



Nimbin Disaster Survey 2021

Floods – 2022

There had been several months of consistent rain across the catchment before the event. In the previous week the BOM radar was showing a threatening weather system lurking nearby and a minor flooding event occurred after some heavy rain. We all breathed a sigh of relief thinking we had escaped the worst. There was more to come however, and a week later some 900mm of rain fell in the catchment over 24 hours, culminating in the catastrophic flooding event during the night of 28th February 2022, causing extensive damage across the Northern Rivers region.

The damage to our main regional centre, Lismore, was immense, with the entire CBD, plus North and South Lismore, totally destroyed, the river height peaking at the record height of 14.6m. At least 2000 people were displaced from their severely damaged homes, and sadly some lives were lost.

In rural areas, damage and loss was widespread to homes, infrastructure such tanks and water lines, animals (both livestock and wildlife), and large areas of land simply slipped away, suddenly reducing the land available for grazing, homes, gardens, even forests.

Power and telecommunications infrastructure failed across the region and from Tuesday 1st March until Thursday 10th March there were little or no communications in the Nimbin catchment area and widespread power outages continued. Remarkably the village itself did not lose power.

There was intermittent weak mobile phone signal (switching to 3G signal sometimes helped); the NBN FWN,



Tuntable Creek Road – 2022 floods

landlines and ADSL were all down. People with satellite phones or satellite internet were still able to communicate.

Many of us were reliant upon ABC Radio North Coast 94.5 FM for updates about what was happening around us. We listened in horror to the events unfolding in Lismore.

Large sections of the Nimbin community became isolated due to access roads cut by washouts and landslips. A massive slip on Tuntable Falls Road above the Dairy, plus severe damage to Tuntable Creek Road between Rose Road and Beardow Road, meant that the residents in between had no way out to via either Nimbin or the Channon, without clambering over or around landslips. Council worked hard to clear the Dairy slip within a couple of weeks, but it is estimated it will take around five years to rebuild the access road through to the Channon.

There were fears for our community members who were missing or their status unknown and accounting for them was done by word of mouth or by walking many kilometres to undertake welfare checks. Most of this work was undertaken by our locally isolated response agency member/volunteers (RFS Brigade, Police, ADF). Some community members were seriously injured, but thankfully there was no local loss of life.

The Mulgum Creek weir was impacted by a large landslip, compromising the village water supply, and the rural water line, servicing some 80 residents, was cut completely.

The Nimbin Service station, the Bush Factory/Nimbin Visitors Centre, NRMA, Candle Factory and five houses on Sibley Street were inundated, with significant loss of stock and household goods. Many people were stuck in town

from Sunday to Wednesday and slept in cars or at the Nimbin Bowling Club.

There was subsequently no fuel available for the first week, until the damage to equipment at the Servo had been assessed and repaired. As from 4th March the Servo commenced providing fuel once again, and throughout was providing swap and go gas and filtered water.

For the first week there were limited supplies coming into the village and there was also an issue with cash with no electronic funds transfer systems operational and businesses forced to trade in cash only. The capacity of our Summerland Credit Union branch and Post Office capacity to trade was also compromised.

For two weeks the community were isolated from outside assistance due to the condition of the roads as well as the impact on Lismore. The initial response was undertaken by community organisations and community members on the ground in Nimbin.

People began the enormous task of cleaning up. On the 30th March a second flood occurred, this time peaking at 11.4m in Lismore, again overtopping the levee, flooding the entire CBD once again, and again flooding the lower Sibley Street area in Nimbin.

The 2022 floods caused immeasurable direct and indirect trauma and damage, including permanent changes to our local landscape and community. The process of recovery will be lengthy and challenging.

Bushfires

Bushfires are unmanaged fires that burn uncontrollably. The severity of the bushfire season can be dependent on how dry the winter and spring have been. Managing fire is vital for protecting our homes and maintaining environmental habitats.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) undertake fire management activities such as planned burns where appropriate. With significant areas of rainforest in Nimbin, planned burns are not necessarily feasible.

In Northern NSW the bushfire season traditionally runs from August to December each year, so most planned burns occur in early winter and anywhere between February and August.

Council produces Bush Fire Prone Land maps. This is land that is likely to be subject to bushfire attack. In dry and gusty conditions, anywhere can burn, as seen in 2019 across vast areas of NSW and in our beloved rainforest.

The Bush Fire Prone Land Map applying to Lismore was prepared following RFS guidelines. Council works with the RFS to develop the maps, and they are updated periodically to reflect changes in vegetation or legislation. The Bush Fire Prone Land Map for the Nimbin area is in Appendix B.

Do you want to volunteer with your local RFS?

Sign up with RFS at:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/volunteering-with-the-rfs



To check if your property is on bushfire prone land go to RFS website:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/planning-for-bush-fire-protection/bush-fire-prone-land/check-bfpl



Useful links

Bushfire survival plan

www.myfireplan.com.au

Hazards Near Me (replaces the Fires Near Me app)

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app>

Flooding

The Northern Rivers is one of the most flood prone areas in NSW. Several creeks running through Nimbin are part of the Richmond catchment such as Terania Creek and Leycester Creek - it is often subject to significant flooding.

Flooding happens when heavy rain falls over the catchment. Run-off from houses and streets also contributes to Terania Creek flooding. The combination of heavy rain, run-off and the existing water in the creek causes creek levels to rise.

The Nimbin community can experience flooding from the overland flow as well. Overland flow is run-off that travels over the land during heavy rainfall events. Overland flow can be unpredictable because it is affected by localised rainfall and urban features such as stormwater pipes, roads, fences, walls and other structures. The actual depth and impact of overland flow vary depending on local conditions, but it generally occurs quickly.

Council develops Flood Prone Maps to understand flood hazard reduction in developed areas and to ensure that new development is compatible with the flood hazard and does not create additional flooding problems. The Flood Prone Map for the Nimbin area is in Appendix B.

Do you want to join a Community Action Team with the SES to help before, during or after a flood?

Sign up with SES at:

www.ses.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer/community-action-team-volunteers/



For more information on flood prone land go to Council's website:

www.lismore.nsw.gov.au



Useful links

Hazards Near Me (includes updates from RFS and SES)

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app>

Lismore LGA Disaster Dashboard:

<https://disaster.lismore.nsw.gov.au/>

Storm events & East Coast lows

Severe thunderstorms are the most common and damaging storm types in NSW resulting in building damage and infrastructure failure from lightning, wind, rain and hail.

Storms are atmospheric disturbances usually characterised by strong and hazardous winds, frequently combined with heavy rain, snow, sleet, hail, ice and/or lightning and thunder. This definition includes unusual meteorological disturbances, such as tornadoes or waterspouts, caused by severe thunderstorms.

East Coast Lows (ECLs) are intense low-pressure systems that occur off the east coast of Australia. They can form at any time of the year and significant ECLs occur on average about 10 times each year across the NSW coast. They are more common during autumn and winter with peak frequency in June.

ECLs will often intensify rapidly overnight making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the NSW coast. These storms can bring damaging winds and heavy rainfall often resulting in flooding.

Have you seen damaged infrastructure after a storm or other disaster?

Report to Lismore City Council on
council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

For concerns which are ongoing, contact Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) so they can lobby for action.



For more information on storms go the
State Emergency Service website:

www.ses.nsw.gov.au/disaster-tabs-header/storm

Useful links

For more information on the weather go to
Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au



Landslips

Landslips usually involve the movement of large amounts of earth, rock, sand or mud or any combination of these. Landslips are generally caused by heavy rain. This occurs when rain saturates the soil on a hillside – often where there has been human activity, for example, a construction where trees and plants have been removed.

In some cases, remaining vegetation may not be able to support the soil's weight against the force of gravity causing the top saturated layer of soil to slip down the slope, taking whatever is on the land with it.

In areas burned by fire, a lower threshold of rainfall may initiate landslips due to the damaged nature of the landscape.



For more information on landslips go to
Geoscience Australia:

<https://www.ga.gov.au/>



Planting Guidelines

You can prepare for landslips by planting local native species in steep areas. Need some ideas, Lismore City Council has developed a guideline go to:

<https://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/new-guide-promotes-biodiversity-in-backyards>

Heatwaves

A heatwave occurs when there are three or more days of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the main health illnesses connected with heat and heatwaves, relating to a person's body temperature.

Heatwaves result in more fatalities in Australia than all natural disasters combined. Heatwaves can also increase the severity of drought and risk of bushfires.

Source: Marcus Mantschef



Nimbin Rocks fire – November 2013



For more information on heatwaves go to
Beat the Heat:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/default.aspx

For more information on the weather go to
Bureau of Meteorology:

www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/



Ask your GP about your health in the heat.
Have their number handy.

Call Health Direct on
1800 022 222 for general health advice.

This is a free 24-hour telephone NSW government health advice line staffed by Registered Nurses to provide expert health advice (free calls from landlines).

Drought

Prolonged drought impacts rural communities and businesses significantly. A prolonged drought is a deficiency in the water supply that affects water availability and water quality. Surface waters are the primary water resource in Nimbin, although some groundwater sources are available for use during dry periods.

Droughts do not have immediate effects like floods, but sustained droughts can cause economic stress. Droughts impact the productivity and profitability of farms in Nimbin. Many people in our community also depend on rainwater for drinking supplies. During prolonged droughts, the lack of drinking water can significantly affect our health.

Services and businesses suffer as less money is spent locally. Inevitably, some businesses close and people have left Nimbin seeking opportunities elsewhere. Drought also has significant social and environmental impacts. Stress often affects the health and wellbeing of our community.



For more information on droughts go to
Department of Primary Industries:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/drought-in-nsw



For mental health support ask at Nimbin Neighbourhood
& Information Centre (NNIC).

NNIC is a referral hub for all local and regional mental
health services. NNIC maintains an up-to-date register of
services.

71 Cullen Street, Nimbin NSW 2480

Phone: 02 6689 1692

Website: www.nnic.org.au

Development of the Plan

Our community has led the creation of this Plan, its implementation, and review. It has been developed in a collaborative, coordinated and adaptable way.

Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee

Following the 2019/2020 bushfires, our community recognised the need to organise and prepare for the growing impacts of climate change and to increase our resilience on many levels.

The Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee was formed in December 2019 to work in partnership with Council and others to support the community through the process of recovery from the bushfires and the development of a community disaster plan.

The Committee developed a report documenting our community's experiences during the bushfires called "*A Snapshot of perspectives on the community response to the 2019 Nimbin area bushfire*". This report informed this Plan.

After Action Reviews

After the bushfires a number of organisations in our community completed After Action Reviews to learn from the experience, including the CWA, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, Tuntable Falls Coop, Siddha Farm and local RFS brigades. Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) also developed a Community

Level Emergency Response Plan which sets out the roles the Centre might perform in the event of disasters.

After Action Reviews were again conducted following the March 2022 Floods. These AARs helped to inform the revision of this Plan undertaken in 2022.

Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group



In 2021 the Disaster Recovery Committee was renamed as the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) to better reflect its aims and activities and role in overseeing the implementation of the Disaster Plan.

The NDRG has driven the Plan coming to life.

The involvement of Lismore City Council

The original Plan, launched in April 2021, was created in partnership with Lismore City Council (Council), with funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience & Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 (BCRERF Phase 1), which was provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Council is committed to strengthening the local community capacity to respond and recover effectively in future disasters. The impact of the 2019/20 bushfires on the Nimbin community was identified and Council recognised the opportunity for the community to reflect on, and learn from our experiences and to develop a specific place-based disaster plan.

Survey Results – January 2021

As part of developing this Plan, an online survey was completed during January 2021. This was targeted to understand the bushfire's impact and how to best support our community's preparation, resilience, and recovery for future natural disasters. The insights provide a platform for us to work with our community on recovery and resilience.

Key impacts from bushfires

The impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires have been significant for our community. The community was most affected by the smoke during the bushfire. Roads being cut off was also a considerable impact, as well as burnt vegetation. 22% of respondents still consider themselves recovering from the bushfires.

While people saw the natural environment, friends and animals as the most affected due to the bushfires, the community's mental health was raised as a significant issue. When our community was asked the biggest impacts from the bushfires, stress, heightened anxiety and PTSD were mentioned by many.

Communication methods

Our community received information mostly from Facebook during the bushfires. While the alert apps and family or friends became significant resources.

At the time the survey was conducted, most respondents considered alert apps as being the best way to communicate during a disaster. At the same time, they did consider public meetings, Facebook and the radio as extremely important.

Preparing for future disasters

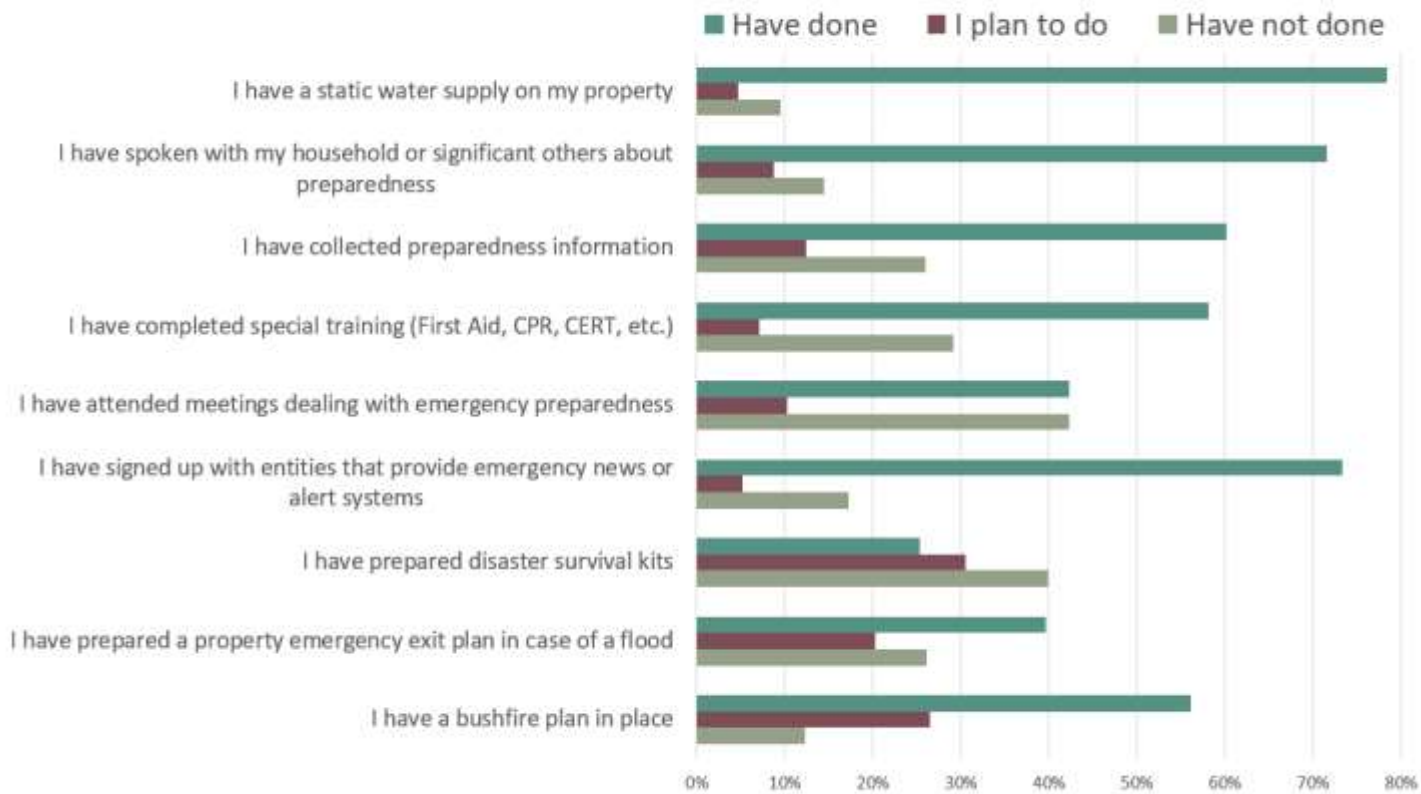
A significant number of people have a bushfire plan in place and are signed up with a variety of emergency apps on their phone. Many people have also attended public meetings about emergency management and discussed preparedness with other household members.

In the survey, storm events and floods were perceived as the biggest threats to our community, followed by heatwave. In terms of our community's knowledge of managing each disaster, most of our community knew a lot about bushfire management. At the same time, there is varied knowledge about landslips, flood, drought and storm events.

Ideas for disaster management

Our community was asked to provide ideas in its recovery and resilience to future disasters. **A plan to clarify what to do and when**, was the most popular answer. There was also an identified need for equipment at hand during a disaster. Education or information about what to do during and after a disaster was requested including advice on how to be fire ready. More collaboration to assist vulnerable people in the community was also identified. All of these ideas have been progressed since the Plan was originally launched.

2021 Survey results: How prepared are you?



226
residents,
business owners
& landowners
did the survey

“ *I feel good clear communication is always essential and knowing exactly where to go to find information.* ”

Workshops

In February 2021, the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group organised two workshops in the town hall to discuss and grow knowledge on the actions and goals our community could undertake to prepare for and respond to future disasters.

Over 30 residents attended the workshops. The outcomes from the workshops provided some important community views and aspirations that have contributed to this Plan.

The Group also held a street stall at the farmers markets to gather more ideas about what the community could do. In March 2021, another public workshop was held to refine the actions.



Grab and go

Think about what you would take if you had 15 minutes of notice to leave your home. Now, think if you had just two minutes.

Pack as you leave

- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Phone and charger
- ✓ Wallet or purse & keys

Prepare a list

Write down what else you should bring for everyone in your household. Clothes? Toothbrush?



Vulnerable people

Think about needs of any vulnerable people in your household including babies, older adults, people with medical conditions or disabilities.

Animals

Think about any animals and pets.

Review of the Plan

In early February 2022, the NDRG commenced a review of the Plan and its progress to date. The purpose was to evaluate progress to report back to the community. The original Plan focused mainly on disaster preparedness.

The community response to the March 2022 flood disaster further informed the evaluation process, and resulted in the inclusion of a community-led Response and Recovery Plan in our Community Disaster Plan.

The addition of the Response and Recovery Plan will enable the community to better understand what to expect after disaster strikes and where to go for help and support, and addresses the primary need identified by community members in the 2021 survey (see page 21 above).

Drafts of the revised Preparedness Plan, and the new Response and Recovery Plan (i.e. pages 28 to 54 below) were circulated to the community via social media, the NNIC website and hard copies for six weeks between October and December 2022.

A community information session and consultation day was held at the Nimbin Bowling Club on 29th October 2022 to inform and obtain feedback about the Draft revisions to the Plan. 48 community members attended this event.

An information stall inviting feedback on the revised plan was also held at the Nimbin Farmers Market on 23rd November 2022.

Feedback was invited via a survey available online or via hardcopies provided at the event on the 29th November, the Farmer's Market stall and NNIC.

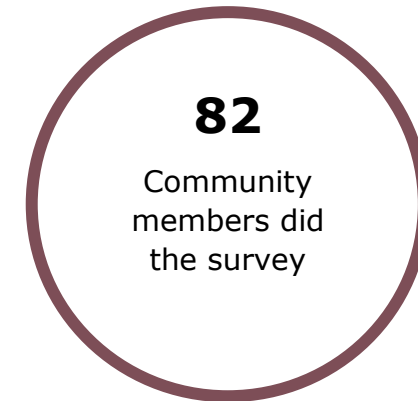
82 community members responded to the survey.



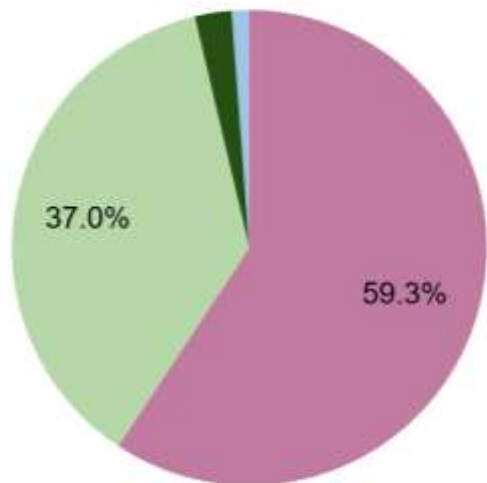
Survey Results – December 2022

The survey aimed to identify anything that community members felt was missing from the Plan, and to obtain their feedback on the progress made under the Plan to date. The survey also sought to understand whether community members' confidence and motivation in their own disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and that of the community as a whole.

Here are some of the findings from the survey. *A full copy of the Survey Results is published on the NNIC website (About Nimbin < Survey Results).*

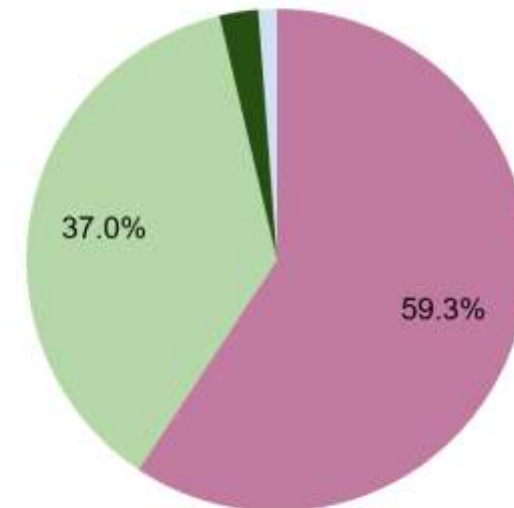


I have a better understanding of the roles of the various response agencies and community organisations who respond in the event of a disaster



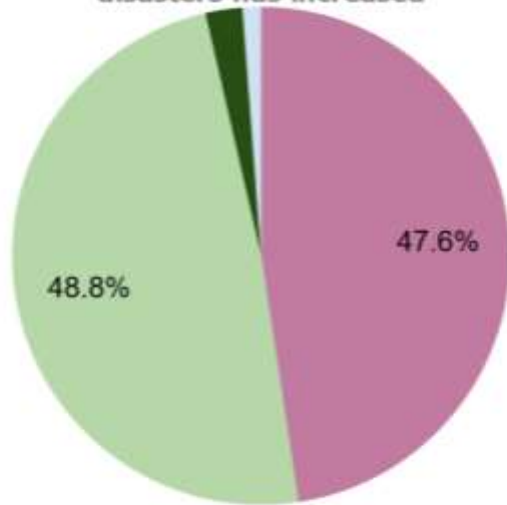
● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree or Disagree ● Disagree

The Disaster Plan improves my understanding of what will happen at a community level in the event of disaster



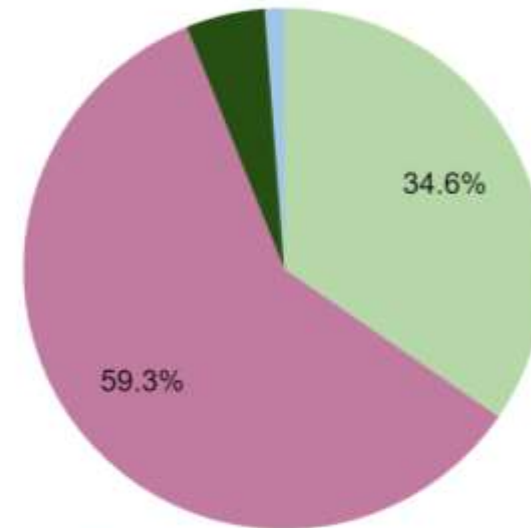
● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree or Disagree ● Disagree

My confidence in the community's capacity to prepare for future disasters has increased



● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree or Disagree ● Disagree

I feel more motivated to take measures to prepare for future disasters



● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree or Disagree ● Disagree

We also asked the community about the best place to receive community information. The responses were as follows:

Nimbin Hook Ups (Facebook group) 82.7%; Email 59.3%; Nimbin Good Times 39.5%, NNIC website 30.9% and poster/flyers around town 29.6%.

“ *An excellent document. This will undoubtedly help with future impacts from disasters in our area.* ”

Emergency management model

Emergency management is about managing risks to communities and the environment. Australian emergency management agencies use a model called prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).

Emergency Management is about PPRR:

Prevention

Actions undertaken in advance to eliminate or reduce the level of the risk or severity of emergencies. Examples include back-burning, relocating people out of the floodplain.

Preparation

Steps undertaken before an incident to ensure effective response and recovery. Examples include training, educating and sharing information.

Response

The assistance and intervention during or immediately after an emergency. Focus is on saving lives and protecting community assets.

Recovery

The coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the recovery of the economic, natural, social and built environment. Examples include the development of recovery plans.

The cyclical nature of this model is important as it highlights that managing emergencies happens all the time, not just during 'the season' for bushfires for example.



It also shows the way the phases blend into each other and overlap rather than being discrete.

Goals

The following goals are based on our community values and will guide our community in future decision making as we implement this Plan. The actions contained in this Plan are structured according to our five goals.



OUR COMMUNITY HAS A STRONG CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS



OUR COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED & WORKS TOGETHER TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER



WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE SO OUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS AND RECOVERS FROM DISASTERS



WE HAVE A COLLABORATIVE TEAM TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS IN THIS PLAN



THE TEAM IS MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED TO ENSURE THE LONGEVITY OF THIS PLAN

Prevention & Preparedness Plan

What are we doing?

The following actions are set out to help our community better understand the priorities, form clear outcomes, and provide accountability. We have developed the actions following input from the survey and workshops.

The actions are primarily when issues fall within our direct control and where no other level of government is already providing a response. Some actions will need prompting and lobbying of the government to progress our community's resilience and recovery needs.

Who is doing what?

To implement the actions, we will draw upon existing strengths, organisations and networks and also seek to explore new ways to collaborate as a community at a local level.

When are we doing it?

Our timeframe for delivering our actions include:

Short term	Within 6 months
Medium term	Within 6 months to 1 year
Long term	Over 1 year
Ongoing	On a regular basis
As required	After a disaster

Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' knowledge

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived in this country for tens of thousands of years, witnessing droughts, floods, fires and sea levels rising and falling.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have shown resilience to adversity and the importance of family and community, connectedness, sharing, role models and leadership.

Acceptance and understanding of the knowledge and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will contribute to decreasing the impacts of emergencies and disasters.

Adopted from Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands; emergency management counterparts other states and territories; land management; and Indigenous groups.

Funding

As there are various types of assistance including personal hardship, essential services grants, restoration of public assets and assistance for small businesses and primary producers, we will identify the funding for the actions once detailed plans are made based on available opportunities.



GOAL 1 – PREPARE

OUR COMMUNITY HAS A STRONG CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to Feb 2023
Prepare a Community-based Disaster Response and Recovery Plan	Prepare a community-led disaster response and recovery plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant roles and responsibilities Consult with the community – develop a survey and consultation process 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	COMPLETED. Community Response and Recovery Plan completed
		Timeframe:	Short term	
		Funding/ Grant source:		
Develop an inventory of equipment suitable for scenarios considered in the plan	Develop an inventory of equipment suitable for emergency response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> equipment checklists for scenarios considered in the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan Lists to be utilised as required to procure or seek donations for equipment 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	COMPLETED. Emergency Equipment List for Evacuation Centre developed.
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	N/A	

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to Feb 2023
Develop an Accommodation list	<p>Work with relevant partners to develop a strategy to address short-term emergency accommodation needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare or obtain a list of accommodation for Nimbin Village and surrounds. Consider how list will be maintained. • list buildings that can be used immediately in the event of an emergency. Consider how list will be maintained. 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	
		Timeframe:	Short term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	N/A	
Community disaster supplies	<p>Seek funding to install a central depot for community disaster supplies, and to fill it with appropriate supplies for use in case of a disaster. Identify appropriate disaster supplies and seek funds to purchase them. Supplies may include such items as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tents / sleeping bags • Portable digital radios (wind up) • Towels/Blankets • Eskies • Signs / traffic control equipment • portable communication devices - megaphones • Logistics, equipment and containers available to transport food or water during an evacuation • Portable chairs and tables for evacuation relocation/staging • Manual siphon pumps 	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group	<p>Shipping container installed at Nimbin Showgrounds for the central depot.</p> <p>Equipment purchased (thanks to funding provided by NRCF).</p> <p>Container now needs a roof over it.</p>

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to Feb 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust/filter-type masks/eye protection (goggles, safety glasses, etc.) Mobile staging ground kit (interim measure if this action is achieved prior to securing the Mobile Staging Ground Unit as per below) <p>Consider maintenance and stocktake of Community disaster supplies and how annual emergency drills might assist in the maintenance regime.</p>			
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding / Grant source:	Funds for roof to be sourced	Funding secured via NRCF to purchase supplies.
Mobile staging ground	<p>Purchase and appropriate fit-out of a mobile ground staging unit to be used in the event of a disaster (e.g. bushfire event when the staging area is required close to the fire front as per the 2019 bushfires and the staging area was installed at Tuntable Coop)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> install and stock with equipment needing to conduct staging operations prepare a checklist of scenario-specific supplies consider power and comms and fooling/heating <p>Consideration will still need to be given to location of the staging ground unit(s),</p>	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced for mobile ground staging unit and staging equipment	

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to Feb 2023
	ownership, approval requirements and costs as well the supplies to be kept in the unit.			
Water tanks	<p>Identify community and non-residential properties in the Nimbin Village with space for new tanks or a need to replace existing water tanks. This could include public spaces in the Nimbin CBD. This could provide community members with emergency water during extreme drought conditions.</p> <p>Seek funding to provide more water tanks in identified locations for community benefit, and promoting relevant information in the local community.</p> <p>Reduce barriers and investigate incentives (such as reducing costs for group purchases) and how to reduce barriers for individual property owners to purchase and install water tanks. Establish a community survey to determine what's preventing land-holders from putting more tanks on their land.</p>	Organisation/ person responsible:	Nimbin Water Security Committee in collaboration with individuals, businesses and community organisations and Lismore City Council	New water tanks installed behind NNIC and Showgrounds
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced	Funds provided by NRCF for the above water tanks
Village signage	Signage to indicate assembly areas, evacuation centre, etc within the village.	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG, Chamber of Commerce, Lismore City Council, A&I Soc.	
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced	



GOAL 2 – CONNECT

OUR COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED & WORKS TOGETHER TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

What are we doing?	How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
<p>Community disaster social/ education events</p>	<p>Hold an annual event as part of the Nimbin Show to raise awareness about preparing for disasters. This should include topics such as (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water harvesting and water security • removal of invasive species • emergency supplies and disaster kits • mental health assistance • helping everyone, including children/ young people understand disaster risks • annual emergency drills <p>Invite State agencies involved in emergency management to participate in this event.</p>	<p>Organisation/ person responsible:</p> <p>Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre in collaboration with the A&I Committee and local RFS brigade</p> <p>Timeframe:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Funding/ Grant source:</p>	<p>Virtual Family Fun and Resilience Day held on 13.11.2021</p> <p>Child focused materials developed. 100x Showbags produced and distributed.</p> <p>2021 activities funded by Healthy North Coast</p>
<p>Everyone is connected</p>	<p>Investigate ways to better connect with all people through existing community networks and organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connecting with isolated and vulnerable community members. Create a list of 	<p>Organisation/ person responsible:</p> <p>NDRG in collaboration with RFS, Nimbin Aged Care, NNIC, CWA and other local services.</p>	<p>Community Care Team model under development – initial pilot trials have commenced.</p>

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
	<p>people/ organisations who are currently communicating with these people.</p> <p>Investigate various models e.g. phone trees, phone directory, Red Cross CRT, Bellingen Neighbourhood and Care network.</p>	Timeframe:	Short term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	See below	
Develop a backup communication system	<p>Develop a backup communication system for use when normal communications fail as per the 2019-20 bushfire and the 2022 flood disasters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider Starlink and alternatives. Develop UHF radios system: Obtain technology / funding for (additional radios, base station, battery, cables etc). Develop Community Care Team model (see also Goal 4 below). Consider: Privacy and security issues, registration and collection methods, use of online/apps, storage and updates. 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG in collaboration with RFS, Nimbin Aged Care, NNIC, CWA and local health services.	<p>16 x UHF Radios sourced and usage protocols currently being finalised.</p> <p>Starlink obtained by NNIC</p>
		Timeframe:	Short term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Funding may be needed for additional technologies.	
Increase collaboration with emergency services	<p>Investigate ways to increase collaboration between emergency services and our community to assist in disaster resilience and recovery. This might be done by means of local or regional networks (e.g. LERN) or other local collaborations such as the annual show.</p>	Organisation/ person responsible:	Community liaison team (see Goal 4)	<p>Significant networking post 2022 floods:</p> <p>Lismore Emergency Recovery Network (LERN), Augmented services brought in (DCJ, Res NSW,</p>

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
				<p>Services NSW) to support the community and NNIC operated as the Nimbin Flood Assistance Centre.</p> <p>Collaborations with Resilient Lismore, Foodbank, Koori Mail, GIVIT, Red Cross and many others post flood.</p>
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Not required	
Improve connections with visitors	Provide accommodation providers with the information sheets to distribute to visitors on their arrival. This should include information about where to go and what to do during a disaster.	Organisation/ person responsible:	Nimbin Chamber of Commerce	
		Timeframe:	Medium	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Not required	
Improve connections with new residents	Include information sheets about the local risks for new community members in the 'Welcome to Nimbin' kit.	Organisation/ person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Information sheet developed and is now included in the WTN Kit (now also viewable online).</p>

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Not required	
Training on disaster response and recovery	Organise information sessions for community members about external agencies' preparedness strategies to upskill our community on how to help each other respond and recover from future disasters.	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG in collaboration with Lismore City Council SES	24 people from Nimbin completed the Community Carers and Responders CCR) training in 2022.
		Timeframe:	Short term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Not required	



GOAL 3 – SHARE

WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE SO OUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS AND RECOVERS FROM DISASTERS

What are we doing?	How are we doing it?		Achieved to date	
After action review	Following any major disaster, develop an After-Action Review process to identify any improvements and gaps in our response, which will be incorporated into the Strategy and Plan. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> auditing local infrastructure to identify damage accessing local knowledge on where the problems are, and which roads or other infrastructure needs to need to be fixed lobbying the appropriate level of government to replace or repair the damaged infrastructure. any impediments to the delivery of the Strategy and Plan how delivery of the Strategy and Plan can be improved 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	Post floods AARs conducted in 2022.
		Timeframe:	As required	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Funding not required	
Online information	Create a dedicated Nimbin and surrounds community disaster page on the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre website which gives the community up-to-	Organisation/ person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre	COMPLETED Web page created Facebook group also created.

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
	date information about disaster prevention, preparation, recovery and response.	Timeframe:	Ongoing – maintain and update	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Some funds provided by LCC.	
Bushfire mitigation education	Investigate options to deliver education opportunities on mosaic burning and cultural burning (for example, Firesticks workshop).	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced	
Flood mitigation education	Investigate options to deliver education opportunities on community land management/ land care programs to include riparian vegetation in order to reduce impacts of a flood.	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG, Environment Centre, Tuntable Landcare, Aquarius Landcare	
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced	
Landslip mitigation education	Investigate options to deliver education opportunities on landslip prevention (for example, Richmond Landcare’s workshop in May 2022). See ‘Managing and preventing landslides’ forum	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	Landslips info session held in May 2022
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced	



Goal 4 – Participate

WE HAVE A COLLABORATIVE TEAM TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS IN THIS PLAN

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
Revise and update the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan	Regularly revise the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To track any progress against the Plans to date; To ensure all parties are clear on their respective roles and responsibilities; To take account of any changes in circumstances, personnel learnings from post-disaster After Action Reviews; To ensure the integration of community, individuals and all the layers of government in a time of disaster; Evaluate outcomes and progress. 	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	Plan reviewed and updated, community consultations held between October and December 2022.
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	N/A	
Spontaneous volunteering management kit	Develop a spontaneous volunteering kit, including an induction kit for spontaneous volunteers which can be used by any community (i.e. multiple occupancy) in the future and also by local community organisations involved in disasters. Consider	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG	Draft Kit Completed
		Timeframe:	Medium term	
		Funding/ Grant source:	N/A	

	examples of kits – eg Brisbane City Council mud army coordination.			
Community Care Team	<p>Develop CCT model, including system for shared data base/record keeping in relation to welfare checks</p> <p>Undertake community engagement to recruit volunteers</p> <p>Induct, train and upskill volunteers e.g. in UHF radio system, first response, safety, mental health first aid, trauma informed practice etc</p>	Organisation/ person responsible:	NDRG, Nimbin RFS, SARK, Resilient Lismore, Channon Hub	Data base under development. Proposed CCT model developed and 1 st trial commenced.
		Timeframe:	Short term (priority)	
		Funding/ Grant source:	Needs funding Est cost: \$10,000	Funding has been sourced to support recruitment, training and equipment by NNIC from NRCF.



Goal 5 – Maintain and Enhance

MAINTAIN THE TEAM TO ENSURE THE LONGEVITY OF THIS PLAN

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?		Achieved to date
Maintain and enhance the NDRG	Maintain and enhance the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group to ensure implementation and revision of the Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review members • engage with stakeholders • build community awareness • enhance social components and connectedness between NDRG and community 	Organisation/person responsible:	NDRG	
		Timeframe:	Ongoing	
		Funding/ Grant source:	To be sourced Funds needed to support the admin costs of NDRG (printing, promotions, consultations etc)	Some funds sourced via NRCF for Disaster plan consultations.

Community Response and Recovery Plan

PHASES

<p>STAND-BY Phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community is notified of a potential disaster situation arising – e.g. BOM weather forecast, Fires Near Me, Catastrophic fire conditions advised. ➤ Response and Recovery Team, Emergency Radio Network operators and CCT Team members alert one another to Stand-By.
------------------------------	--

<p>Phase ONE</p> <p>RESPONSE</p> <p>Est time period:</p> <p>1-4 wks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First response triggered – via people calling 000 or 132 500 SES for help – or initiated by Local RFS Brigade. ➤ Damage assessment/risks & welfare checks commence by Combat Agencies/Local RFS Brigade. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parts of community may be isolated from the village.</i> • <i>The village may be isolated from surrounding regional centres, outside help from the Lead Combat/Response Agencies, and supplies.</i> • <i>Communication technologies may be compromised.</i> • <i>First on the ground may be locals only.</i> </div> ➤ Activate Community Response & Recovery Team ASAP – additional/supplementary roles/responsibilities allocated as necessary – meeting on a daily basis. ➤ Activate Community Care Team and emergency radio network as required. ➤ Local community organisations /groups/people commence response ASAP according to agreed roles.
---	--

- **Spontaneous volunteers strategy implemented.**

Opening of Evacuation Centre at Showgrounds triggered by:

- *Lead Combat agency (NSW Government declares Emergency)*

OR

- *NSW (Nimbin) Police (any disaster events requiring localised evacuations)*

- **Community Response & Recovery Team collaborates with and supports the Evacuation Centre (e.g. establish Satellite Info/Triage Desk, manage essential items/food distribution, CWA commences cooking operations at Showground kitchens).**
- **Handover to Response & Recovery Team when Evacuation Centre closes.**
- **Establishment of a NSW Recovery Hub may be required in the event that key local organisations' capacities to provide support to community members are compromised or unable to meet demand, or additional support is needed for the community.**

Phase TWO

RESPONSE - RECOVERY

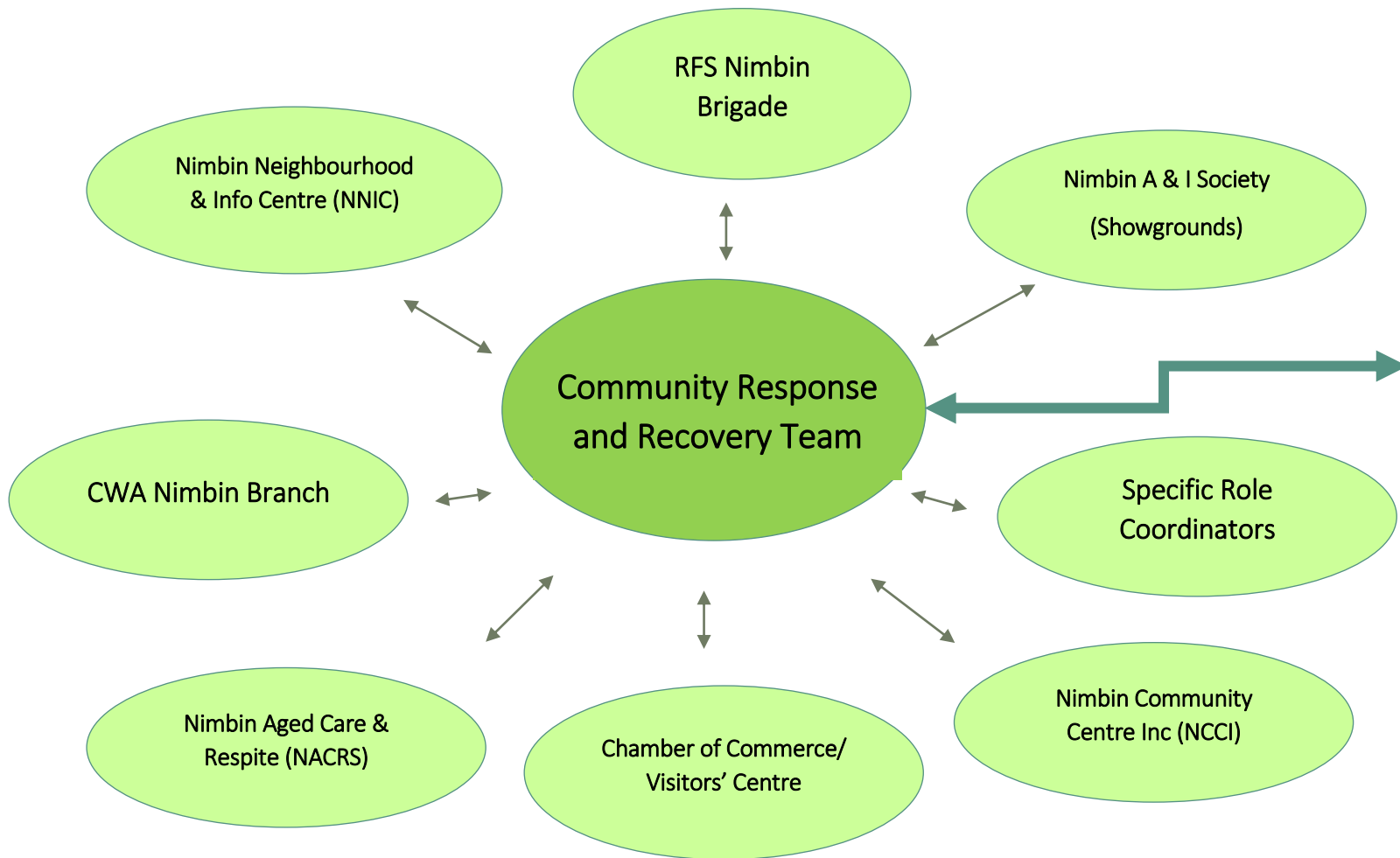
**Est time period:
Up to 6 months**

- **Community Response & Recovery Team continues – meeting weekly/fortnightly/monthly as needed.**
- **Damage/needs assessments continue.**
- **Maintain communications with impacted people.**
- **Recovery efforts commence – repairs, clean up, damage remediation etc.**
- **Damage/needs assessments continue.**
- **Seek resources to address needs.**
- **Link people into information, services and assistance.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After Action Reviews (AARs) conducted by Community Response & Recovery Team and the participating community organisations/groups etc. ➤ Involvement of Spontaneous volunteers phases out.
--	--

<p>Phase THREE</p> <p>RECOVERY</p> <p>Est time period: 2 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Response & Recovery Team continues – meeting e.g. 1/4ly basis – eventually to hand over to NDRG? ➤ Ongoing impacts and longer terms damage assessments continue – lobby for resources. ➤ Community Conversation/consultations held. ➤ Learnings from above AARs and other community feedback incorporated into Community Disaster Plan by NDRG. ➤ Learnings shared on LGA or regional etc. basis as deemed appropriate by NDRG. ➤ NDRG continues to implement the Nimbin Disaster Plan (Preparedness).
---	---

Nimbin Community Disaster Response and Recovery Plan STRUCTURE



Nimbin Community Disaster Response and Recovery Plan

Organisations/Community Members and Roles

Organisation /Person	Roles in Response and Initial Recovery Phase (<i>*Note: Roles will depend on capacity following a disaster – various agencies may be individually impacted</i>)
Country Women’s Association (CWA) Nimbin Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Food preparation and distribution. ✓ Clothing and other goods collection and distribution. ✓ Collect information about needs and pass onto Information Coordinator. ✓ Work in partnership with others: Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people.
Nimbin A and I Society (Nimbin Showgrounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Operate as Evacuation Centre if triggered by NSW Government or NSW (Nimbin) Police. ✓ Operate as information collection site – needs etc. (while operating as Evac Centre). ✓ Provide staging ground for emergency response e.g. helicopters and deliveries and distribution of supplies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide access to facilities as may be necessary/feasible – e.g. showers, water, camping. ✓ Work in partnership with others: Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people.
<p>Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Centre (NACRS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintain NACRS list of vulnerable aging and disabled people receiving support services, particularly those living in isolated circumstances where access may be affected ✓ Receive referrals from other CRR organisations about vulnerable aging or disabled people needing extra support during the R&R phase who may not already be NACRS clients. ✓ Contact/visit listed/referred people for welfare checks asap, prioritise according to the nature of the disaster and individual support needs. ✓ When contact cannot be made with a vulnerable person, contact the RFS and request they do a welfare check asap ✓ Where services and supports to clients are interrupted, work to restore services asap ✓ Available at centre: one-to-one support and access to internet, phone, computer, cuppa, quiet space, showers for disaster affected people – usually M-F 10am-2pm if staff available ✓ Receive, store and distribute food packages to vulnerable people ✓ Work in partnership with others: Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people.

<p>Nimbin Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support visitors via Visitors Information Centre ✓ Work in partnership with others: Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people.
<p>Nimbin Community Centre Inc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide space for displaced or augmenting services if necessary. ✓ Share office resources- we have 3 desks a printer and Wifi access. ✓ Share Casual hire spaces- storage, collection and distribution of goods or space for augmented services. ✓ Information sharing- face book, email, website. ✓ Storage spaces-Storage of some resources for emergency response. ✓ If office staff available- accept delegated tasks from response team. ✓ Share NBN access if necessary. ✓ Work in partnership with others: Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people.
<p>Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Initiate the Community Response and Recovery Team and trigger the implementation of the Response and Recovery Plan, and the activation of the Community Care Team. ✓ Conduct post disaster response review after the event. Include information from any post event reviews conducted by other community orgs or groups. Facilitate community input via community forums, surveys etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Update the Nimbin Disaster Plan as may be needed, taking account of any new lessons learned.
<p>Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Operate as Central Information and "Assistance Centre" (<i>unless services directly and severely impacted = triggers the need for the establishment of NSW Recovery Hub to be established</i>) ✓ Seek to augment existing services with "Recovery Hub" type services e.g. DCJ Housing support, Services Australia, Services NSW, Red Cross, mental health providers, as may be needed to maximise support for impacted community members. ✓ Establish Remote Info/Triage Desk or Assistance Centre/s if necessary/feasible (e.g. at Evacuation Centre, Town Hall), with relevant partners. ✓ Expand hours of operation if necessary/feasible. ✓ Provide access to Maps. ✓ Provide access to communications – phone, internet, Starlink. ✓ Maintain existing services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and referrals • Food Relief • Service Australia/Centrelink Agency • Community Workers – especially case coordination of impacted people • Mental Health/Drugs & Alcohol Clinician • Emergency Relief – wide range of material aid and vouchers • Provide access to IT equipment and internet • Assistance with forms and navigating online portals and payment or grant application processes. ✓ Information intake/gathering – forward to Information Coordinator.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information Distribution – flyers, posters, social media, Website. ✓ Conduct welfare checks as may be necessary (especially homeless people in known camp locations), or assist response agencies with welfare checks (e.g. advise of location of vulnerable people known to NNIC). ✓ Receive and manage local cash donations in a transparent manner (registered PBI Charity with current Fundraising Authority). ✓ Work in partnership with others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with emergency response agencies/Council as necessary. LERN, Other • Participate in Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings and maintain communications with the other Nimbin community-based response organisations and people. • CONC at the regional level (partner neighbourhood centres)
Community Care Team Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Liaise with their nearest emergency radio network operator and the other CCT volunteers in their designated locality. ✓ Undertake welfare checks on neighbours in their designated locality. ✓ Confirm that residents are alive and uninjured. ✓ Provide residents with accurate information. ✓ Identify residents’ immediate needs (food, water, medicines, shelter, pets, livestock etc). ✓ Record identified needs and property damage in one uniform data base.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Undertake and maintain relevant training provided to ensure capacity to perform the role safely for all. ✓ Maintain communications between the other CCT volunteers in their designated locality in between disasters.
Emergency Radio operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintain and check all radio equipment on a regular basis, between disasters. ✓ Advise Emergency Radio Network Coordinator of any equipment issues. ✓ Advise Emergency Radio Network Coordinator of intention to resign from the role. ✓ Identify a replacement operator if applicable and possible. ✓ Return all equipment to NNIC in the event of resignation from the role. ✓ Commence emergency radio operations as may be required in the event of a disaster. ✓ Liaise with local CCT volunteers regarding information gathering. ✓ Report reliable information to base as it comes to hand, as per reporting protocols. ✓ Report reliable information to residents in their locality via the CCT volunteers.
SPECIFIC COORDINATION ROLES (to be allocated as necessary – see Role Descriptions)	
Information Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collate information gathered by the above partners in relation to needs, for the purpose of assessing extent of need and seeking resources to address. ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings.
Spontaneous Volunteers Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intake including screening of volunteers as may be necessary. ○ Allocation of tasks according to skills, quals, experience, equipment, availability etc. ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings.
Food/Essential Supplies Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on information gathered as to needs, coordinate supplies offered/brought in to the community and their distribution, particularly to isolated people etc., using food distribution infrastructure such as NNIC and CWA Food relief processes, but also where response agencies are involved – e.g. food drops to isolated people/communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings.
Mental Well-being Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gather information as to level of need and service gaps and Identify resources/services which can assist. ○ Distribute approved mental wellbeing information. ○ Coordinate/facilitate local mental wellbeing activities or events. ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team meetings.
Community Care Team coordinator *(= an ongoing role in between disasters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain communications between CCT members. ○ Support the recruitment of CCT members to ensure the catchment area is covered. ○ Identify training needs of CCT members. ○ Brief and debrief CCT members as may be required. ○ Coordinate regular (e.g. annual) networking gatherings between CCT members. ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team/NDRG meetings.
Emergency Radio Network Coordinator *(= an ongoing role in between disasters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitate monthly equipment checks. ○ Oversee equipment deployment. ○ Maintain/update equipment inventory. ○ Recruit and training ERN operators. ○ Maintain communications with the ERN operators. ○ Participate in Community Response and Recovery Team/NDRG meetings
Community Response and Recovery Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The purpose of the Community Response and Recovery Team is to ensure we all work collaboratively together and we are all on the 'same page". Reduce duplication of effort and maximise resources. To harness existing community infrastructure, resources and expertise and augment as needed. ✓ Comprised of representatives from the above organisations plus any personnel in Specific Coordination roles (see above). ✓ The Community Response and Recovery Team will determine if Specific Coordination Roles are required and identify people to allocate those roles to. ✓ Additional community members may be invited to participate in meetings of the Group by agreement of the other Community Response and Recovery Team members. ✓ Meets regularly according to the Response & Recovery Phases. ✓ Maintain communications and collaboration between participating orgs/partners. ✓ Problem-solve issues as they may arise.

Lismore City Council

- Leading local level disaster management arrangements
- Building community understanding and capability to manage risks.
- Leading enhanced community resilience.
- Reducing exposure to all hazards through responsible land use planning, development and construction.
- Protect important environmental areas and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience.

Working Together

Roles of all stakeholders

All levels of government have a role to play in reducing our exposure and vulnerability to risk and building our resilience. As a community, we have responsibilities too.

A detailed description of the lead agencies that have a shared responsibility for emergency management is set out in Appendix A.

Other organisations in our community

Local businesses and other community organisations and groups not specifically mentioned in this Plan are responsible for:

- Understanding their exposure to disaster risks
- Contributing to the social and economic recovery of our community
- Considering the prevention and reduction of risk as part of their core activities

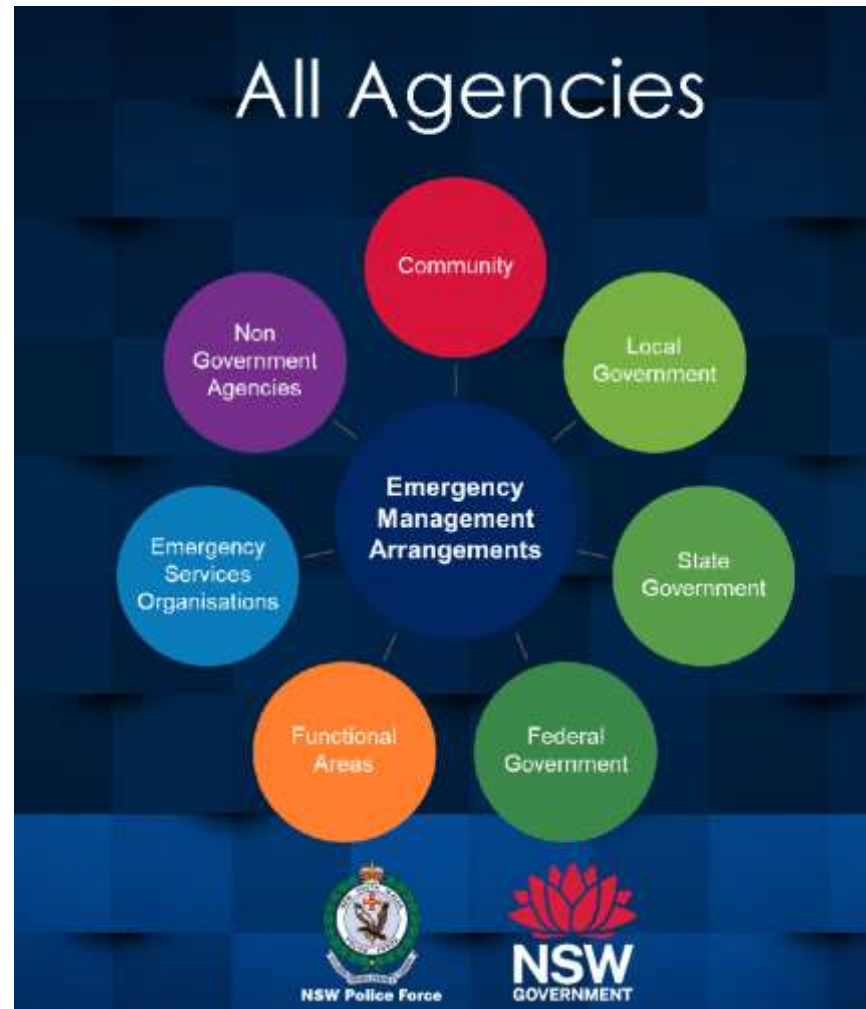
Community and Individuals

Our community and individuals are encouraged to:

- Build healthy levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation.
- Understand their exposure to local risks.
- Carry out activities to plan and prepare for all hazards.
- Undertake the actions contained in this Plan.

Appendix A: Agencies and their roles in emergency management

Note: Functional Areas = support agencies and include e.g. Health, Animal Welfare organisations.



The following information was adapted from the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (December 2018) and the NSW Recovery Plan (2016). These Plans are under review following the 2022 floods. In particular, the NSW Reconstruction Authority was established in December 2022 and the roles and functions of Resilience NSW are being transitioned, with details unknown at the time of publication.

Emergency Services Organisations	Role
Resilience NSW PHASING OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee and coordinate emergency management policy, service delivery and all aspects of disaster recovery at a state, national and international level.
NSW Reconstruction Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated to disaster preparedness, recovery and reconstruction.
Fire and Rescue NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All practical measures to prevent fires and protect life and property from fire or hazardous material incidents Training and equipping residents within FRNSW Fire Districts
NSW Rural Fire Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during a fire (within rural fire district) Management of hazard reduction and mitigation programs Firefighting response to fires within Rural Fire Districts
State Emergency Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the response to actual or imminent threats of flood, storm or tsunami to protect persons from danger to their safety and health and to protect property from damage in respect of these hazards
NSW Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combat agency for Search and Rescue and coordination in circumstances where no other agency has legislated responsibility during emergencies.
Department of Primary Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during animal, plant disease, rodent or insect plague
Ambulance Service of NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a pre-hospital emergency incident management capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any event
NSW Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during a pandemic and health support during an emergency.
Lismore City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council plays a key role in managing local recovery, providing services and assistance to the community and advice to State Government.
NSW Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates or aids in regulating scheduled activities that may cause significant environmental impact, dangerous goods transport, pesticide use, hazardous waste, contaminated land and radiation control.
Welfare Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functional area is responsible for coordinating the provision of welfare services to disaster affected people
Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is responsible for coordinating formal recovery processes including recovery operations.

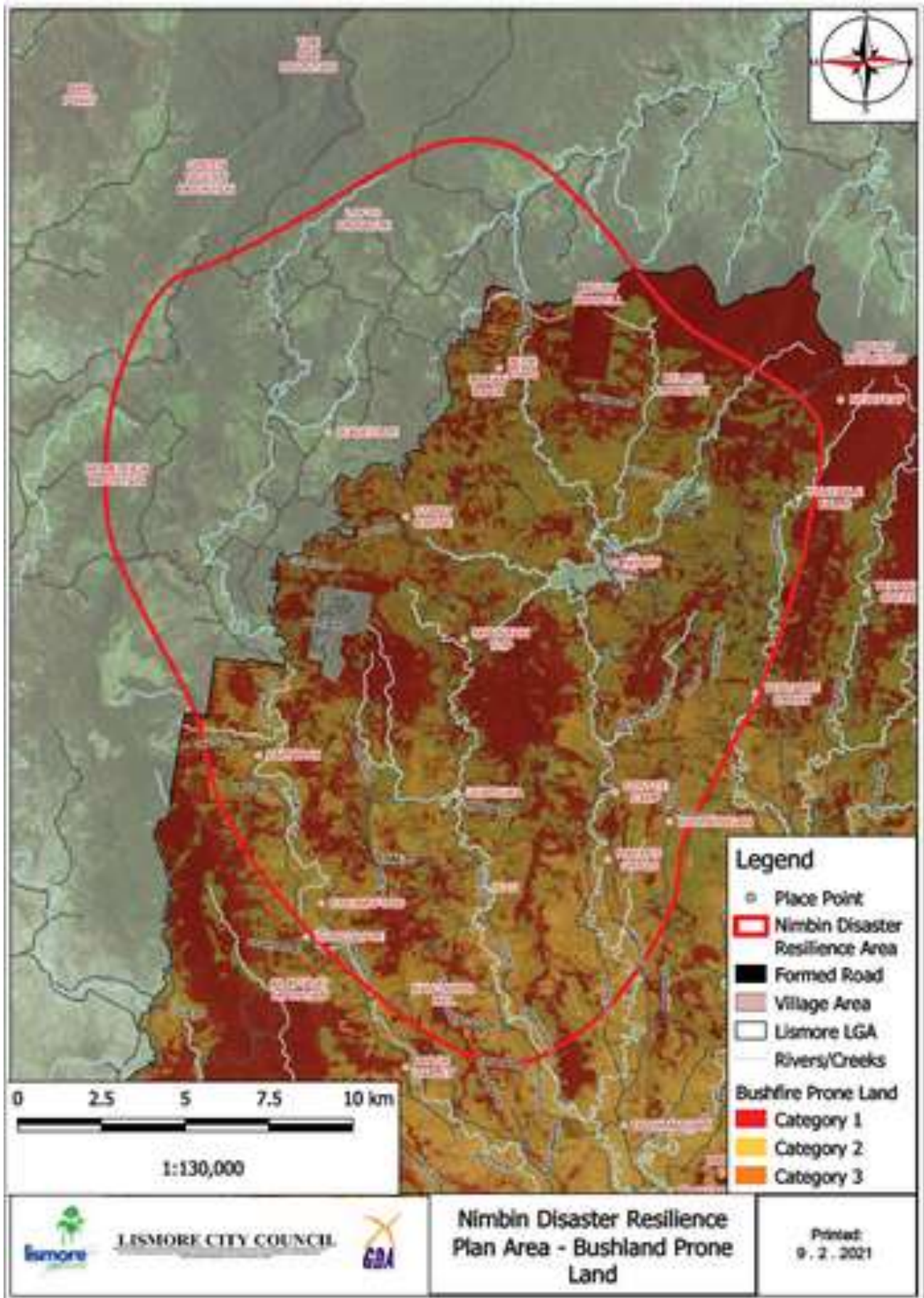
Appendix B – Bushfire prone land map & flood prone land map

Bushfire prone land map:

Vegetation Category 1 (red): Land considered to be the highest risk for bushfire and surrounded by a 100m buffer (buffer is yellow)

Vegetation Category 2 (light orange): Land is considered to be a lower bush fire risk than categories 1 and 3. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).

Vegetation Category 3 (dark orange): Land is considered to be a medium bush fire risk. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).

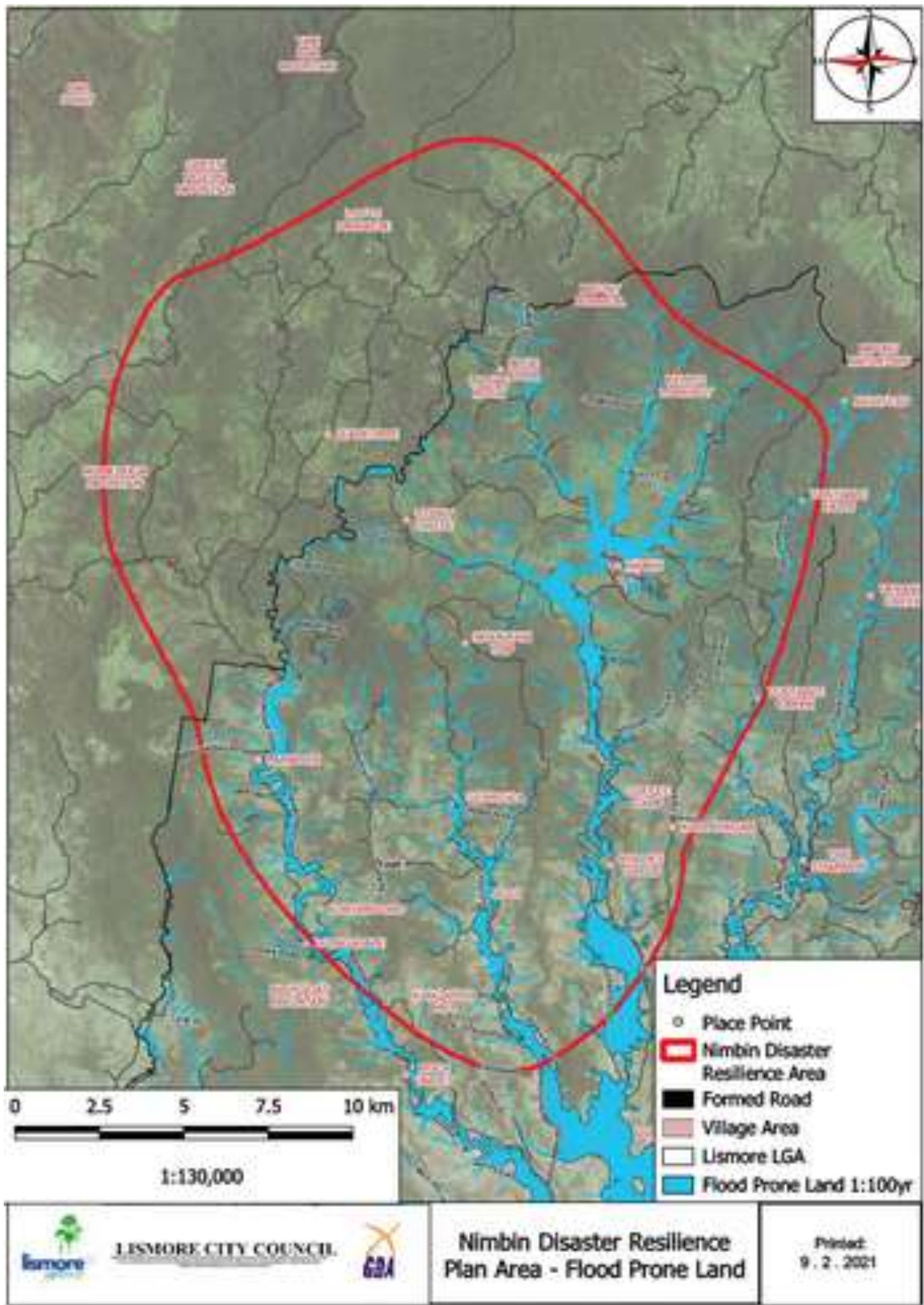


LISMORE CITY COUNCIL



Nimbin Disaster Resilience Plan Area - Bushland Prone Land

Printed: 9.2.2021





For queries about the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan, or to provide feedback or input, contact us on:
nimbindisasterresiliencegroup@gmail.com

This Plan was originally funded by the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCRERF) - a joint disaster recovery funding arrangement between the NSW and Commonwealth Government.



Nimbin Community Disaster Plan – February 2023