

# Rethinking Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change Adaptation

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# Summary

1. Overview of the project
2. Four themes
3. Rethinking the problem
4. Four proposals

# 1) Overview of the project

Need to integrate climate change adaptation & disaster risk management in a federal system

Project aims:

- To reconceptualise the framing of the problem;
- To develop the foundation for a new approach;
- To indicate how existing policy making & planning might be modified.

Method:

- Comparison of 2011 Brisbane floods, 2011 Perth Hills bushfires & 2009 Victorian Bushfires;
- Used inquiry reports, interviews & workshops.

## 2) Four themes

Comparative analysis found a common need to:

1. Improve community engagement & communication
2. Renew focus on resilience
3. Improve interagency communication & collaboration
4. Create institutional arrangements that support continual improvement and policy learning

Points for integration?

# 3) Rethinking the problem

- Basic concepts have been over-simplified
- Not just one community but many
- One size does not fit all
- Resilience & vulnerability are context specific
- Inherent uncertainty of impacts at the local level
- Try a Bayesian iterative approach to policy making & planning that:
  - Is cumulative
  - Draws on local knowledge
  - Utilises experience of front-line officers

## 4) Four proposals

- Expand collaborative funding to encourage partnerships within & between sectors to address specific issues (similar to Landcare or Natural Disaster Resilience Program)
- Establish community resilience grants at local council level with public making proposals & voting
- Embed climate change researchers within disaster risk management organisations
- Improve networking from Ministers to CEOs, senior officers & front-line collaboration champions