

Regional Resilience Resource Sharing Review



Project Description

The Hunter and Central Coast region has been subject to several 'declared natural disaster' events in recent years, including the 2019/2020 bushfires, and consecutive flood and storm events in 2021-2023¹. Engagement with Member Councils identified an opportunity to better support each other during and after disasters by more effectively sharing resources.

Under the *Transforming Resilience with the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework Project*, Hunter JO convened the Hunter and Central Coast Resilience Resource Sharing Review, which sought to further test the idea of regional resource sharing and the logistics required to set up potential governance arrangements.

The Review included;

- Synthesis report drawing on existing research and information
- Council survey
- Interviews with 5 organisations with experience developing resource sharing arrangements
- Workshop to further explore the challenges, barriers, and enablers to formalise regional resource sharing arrangement and identify actions

Outputs

Hunter and Central Coast Resilience Resource Sharing Workshop

The workshop was attended by over 30 participants including LEMOs, REMO and Emergency Management Coordinators, Community Education and Recovery Officers, Safety and Risk Advisors, Business Continuity and Resilience, WHS Managers, Project Officers and Disaster Preparedness Officers from 9 Member Councils. During the workshop, participants built an understanding of existing resource-sharing arrangements in Australia, and through iterative and interactive activities, developed 12 ideas to more enable effective resource sharing.

Following the workshop, outcomes were collated into two action plans to progress formalised resource sharing arrangements, including establishing a regional MoU for disaster resource sharing arrangements and a shared fatigue management guideline. The purpose, scope and process of the action plans are outlined as part of the *Regional Approach To Enable Shared Resources And Fatigue Management* report.



¹NSW Government, 2023, Natural disaster declarations, available at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster-declarations>



Synthesis report

The synthesis report summarises the challenges and opportunities for resource-sharing in the Hunter and Central Coast region and informed the Hunter and Central Coast Resilience Resource Sharing Workshop.

The report documents:

- Recent natural disaster response from councils
- Resource-sharing challenges faced by councils
- Enablers to resource sharing arrangements for councils
- Governance arrangements in place for similar resource-sharing arrangements in the Australian context
- A summary of workshop activity objectives and outputs.

Action Plans

Action plans have been developed to assist Member Councils and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) take a regional approach to enable shared resources and fatigue management:

ACTION PLAN 1:

Hunter and Central Coast regional MoU for disaster resource sharing arrangements and considerations for inclusion

This action plan captures the process to develop an MoU for regional disaster resource sharing arrangements. The action plan includes advice on how to engage with councils and other stakeholders, an outline of principles, roles, and responsibilities for receiving and contributing councils, and a template MoU including other suggested initiatives for inclusion.

ACTION PLAN 2:

Shared fatigue management guideline for Hunter JO Member Councils during response or recovery activities associated with a disaster, in accordance with relevant legislation and standards

The purpose of this action plan is to enable the development of a consistent approach to fatigue management across all Hunter JO Member Councils. Fatigue management was identified as an important initiative in the development of an agreed position on disaster resource sharing arrangements. This action plan is provided to demonstrate how an agreed position can be established, to set the foundation for a formalised arrangement.