

DELIVERING STRONGER TOGETHER

INTERIM REPORT YEARS 1 AND 2



Stronger Together, South Australia's first disaster resilience strategy was released in November 2019, providing a foundation upon which all sectors can work together towards a more resilient South Australia.

Through a co-design process with input from over 500 stakeholders **Stronger Together** provides direction for resilience building work across four key focus areas and two cross cutting themes.

This interim report highlights forty-eight projects and initiatives aligned to Strategy outcomes that have been progressed in the first two years of implementation. This work has been predominantly delivered through Commonwealth and State disaster resilience and risk reduction grant funding, totalling approximately \$5.8 million.

In addition, the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) has led new initiatives and collaborations with a range of organisations to progress work aligned to the focus areas of the Strategy.

Stronger Together will continue to guide focus and investment in resilience building and risk reduction in South Australia.

DELIVERING STRONGER TOGETHER: SA’S DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGY 2019-2024. INTERIM REPORT YEARS 1 AND 2

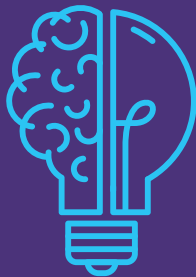
	Focus area 1 Neighbourhoods and Communities	Focus area 2 Small Businesses	Focus area 3 Children and Young People	Focus area 4 Strategic and Connected Networks	Cross-cutting theme 1 Diversity and Inclusion	Cross-cutting theme 2 Health and Wellbeing
Aims	Informed and connected neighbourhoods and communities working together.	Prepared and adaptable businesses that can continue to operate during and after an event.	Children and young people reducing their risks and increasing their self-reliance.	Strategic and connected networks that broaden the emergency management sector.	Diversity and Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing are essential elements to building resilience.	
What has been delivered to date	Outcomes aligned to the projects and recommendations from <i>Stronger Together</i> P = Grant Funded Project S = SAFECOM initiatives delivered within existing resources					
	Projects/initiatives: 9 Funded projects totalling: \$792,200* Community-based emergency management <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community-Led Emergency Resilience - supporting communities to drive their own resilience building actions (Australian Red Cross (ARC)) PResilience Recharge – activities and messaging on drought preparedness and resilience (ARC) PClimate Ready Communities – equipping community members to champion climate preparedness (ARC) PCommunity Resilience Leaders Emergency Volunteer Program (City of Adelaide) PResidential Building Retrofit for Climate Adaptation (AdaptWest) P Innovative insurance options <ul style="list-style-type: none">Insuring Against Disaster – A Practical Toolkit to Prepare Financially for Emergencies (Good Shepherd Microfinance) PIdentifying Strategies to Maximise Access to Insurance for People at Risk from Climate Emergencies (SA Council of Social Services (SACOSS)) P Innovate to strengthen a culture of volunteering <ul style="list-style-type: none">Building Regional Volunteer Capacity (Volunteering SA and NT) P Public information campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">SA's Emergency Management Communications and Engagement Framework – strengthening communications and engagement on preparedness and recovery (SAFECOM) P	Projects/initiatives: 5 Funded projects totalling: \$263,100* Small business resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none">Building Business Ready Networks – regional networks of businesses prepared for natural disasters (Rural Business Support) PEmergency Services Business Network (Volunteer Services Branch SAFECOM) PSurveys undertaken with small local businesses to gain SA perspectives (SAFECOM partnering with the Innovation Lab, DPC) S Targeted grant funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disaster resilience and risk reduction grant programs expanded to include private sector applicants S Strengthen business sector engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">Established a Business Resilience Reference Group to advise on priorities for business resilience (SAFECOM) S	Projects/initiatives: 7 Funded projects totalling: \$783,800* Scoping exercise with children and young people <ul style="list-style-type: none">Leave it to Z – involving children and young people in emergency management (ARC) PLeave it to Z (Stage 2) (ARC) PBe Prepared: Not Just a Motto – empowering SA Guides and Scouts to help build the resilience of their communities (ARC) PA School Based Resilience Program (Growing with Gratitude) PDigi-prepped – a co-designed app to deliver key messaging on disaster preparedness, empowering SA Guides and Scouts to help build resilience of their communities (ARC) PBuilding Resilient Connections in and around school communities (Schools Ministry Group) P A consistent approach to disaster resilience education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disaster Resilience Innovation Challenges for Schools – Pilot (Incept Labs and SAFECOM) P	Projects/initiatives: 13 Funded projects totalling: \$3,136,300* Emergency management capability <ul style="list-style-type: none">Activating Community Resilience (Torrens Resilience Institute) PBuilding Regional Volunteer Capacity (Volunteering SA and NT) PReal-time Monitoring System for the State Emergency Centre (DPC) PEstablishing the Emergency Services Sector Climate Change Advisory Group SFacilitating Emergency Services Sector input into the SA Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 SAddition of Focus Area 6: Resilient Communities in the SA Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 SState Level Risk Assessment (SAFECOM) PUnderstanding Consequence Management (DPC) P Avenues to network and share <ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-convened the Australian Disaster Resilience Network (SAFECOM, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, Resilient Melbourne, ARC) S Disaster resilience and recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided opportunities for recovery work to incorporate successful disaster resilience programs S Natural Disaster Resilience Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduced new processes to address feedback, increase accountability, and streamline processes, e.g. introducing an initial EOI to improve applicant experience STrialled focus groups for grant funded projects to facilitate collaboration, provide support and enhance project outcomes S Relationship with Local Government <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council Ready (Local Government Association) P	Projects/initiatives: 11 Funded projects totalling: \$701,200* Diversity and inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beyond Disaster – A CALD communities action plan to stay resilient (Vietnamese Community in Australia) PEscape the Elements – designing extreme weather kits for people who are homeless (ARC) PBuilding Resilient CALD Communities (Multicultural Communities of SA) PDisaster Resilience Education Project – financial literacy program for low income families (Uniting Communities) PRoles and Responsibilities for Organisations Providing Services to People at Risk (SACOSS) PCALD Communities – Locally-Led Risk Reduction Project (ARC) PAdapt West In Action (Adapt West) P Support strategies that better prepare people at risk for emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Input and support for the People at Risk in Emergencies Framework and delivery of the associated Action Plan SDevelopment of the Emergency Services Sector Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan SInput into the Australian Disability Strategy and Targeted Action Plan for Emergency Management S Recognise local knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of the Emergency Services Sector Reconciliation Action Plan S	Projects/initiatives 3 Funded projects totalling \$200,000* Build resilience through health and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health and Community Service Sector Climate Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building and Collaboration (SACOSS) PIncreased investment though appointment of a Health and Wellbeing Officer for Emergency Services (SAFECOM) SInput into the National Mental Health Framework S
	The successful pilot by Australian Red Cross of Community-Led Emergency Resilience resulted in private sector investment to expand the model across SA. The model is also being adapted to focus on CALD communities. <i>Stronger Together</i> was one of the strategic directions underpinning recovery efforts in SA following the 2019-2020 bushfires.	Six private sector organisations to date have successfully applied for disaster resilience and risk reduction grant funding since 2019 to deliver on projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of a tool for households to select appropriate insurance.Piloted design thinking challenges in schools.Installed a network of local weather stations. Broadened representation on the State Emergency Management Committee’s Resilience Recovery and Engagement Sub Committee to include a focus on business through the Department for Innovation and Skills. Established a dialogue between industry bodies, government, and small businesses to collectively identify what will help businesses to become more resilient before, during and after emergencies.	SAFECOM partnered with Sydney based Incept Labs to pilot disaster resilience innovation challenges with 75 SA high school students. In addition a SA school trialled this approach as a new teaching model with 100 year ten students. Organisations individually seeking funding to engage children and young people in emergency management have been brought together by SAFECOM to collaborate on identified priorities.	Agencies have been encouraged to jointly deliver grant funded projects, with broader benefit across South Australia. Broadening representation on the State Emergency Management Committee’s Resilience, Recovery and Engagement Sub Committee has led to the inclusion of non-government representatives.	In 2021-22 the Emergency Services Sector committed to improve access and inclusion to information and services for people living with a disability. In addition, steps will be taken to increase diversity and inclusion and progress reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.	
	Neighbourhoods and Communities A continued focus on supporting and scaling up community-led emergency management initiatives. Implement a multi-hazard resilience building community engagement project (SAFECOM).	Small Business Continue to bring together agencies with a focus on small business to generate and support innovative ways to build business resilience.	Children and Young People Develop a collaborative and strategic approach to identify priorities to build resilience and engage with children and young people in partnership with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.	Strategic and Connected Networks Implement SA's Emergency Management Communications and Engagement Framework.	Diversity and Inclusion Re-establish the People at Risk in Emergencies Action Group to progress implementation of the Framework and associated Action Plan. Implement the Emergency Services Sector Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan.	Health and Wellbeing Continue to engage with SA Health and Wellbeing and Local Government on public health and wellbeing initiatives.
	Monitor initiatives that contribute to building resilience and reducing risk in SA, utilising the Wicked Lab tool for measuring systemic change.					
	Develop a disaster resilience and risk reduction action plan that combines implementation of <i>Stronger Together</i> and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework priorities.					
	Trial an Innovation Stream as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Grants Program to generate innovative ways to reduce risk and build resilience.					
	Better understand and communicate natural hazard risk.					
	Establish targets for Disaster Risk Reduction Grant funding to address specific gaps in disaster resilience and risk reduction.					

*Approximate project value inclusive of Natural Disaster Resilience Program/Disaster Risk Reduction Grant funding, agency contributions and in-kind support.

SHOWCASING RESILIENCE

Disaster Resilience Innovation Challenges

Incept Labs trialled three innovation challenges with a number of South Australian schools. Students were successfully supported through a design thinking process to identify solutions to complex real-world emergency management problems. Some valuable ideas were generated by the students for the emergency management sector, including engaging young people in different ways. In addition to gaining a better understanding of disasters, students were assessed and awarded a micro-credential from Griffith University.



Insuring Against Disaster: A Practical Toolkit to Prepare Financially for Emergencies

Good Shepherd Microfinance developed a Toolkit to improve financial resilience for households and encourage the uptake of appropriate insurance.

The Toolkit sets out the steps to take to be financially ready and to recover faster from the impacts of a disaster.



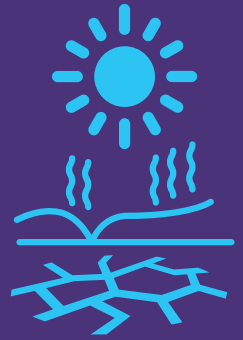
The Disaster Resilience Education Project

New disaster resilience education materials have been developed by Uniting Communities as part of their financial literacy training to support low income and vulnerable community members. The additional disaster resilience materials complement existing financial literacy programs the agency delivers across metropolitan and regional SA.



AdaptWest In Action

A partnership between three councils in western Adelaide looked at ways to increase community and household resilience in the face of extreme heat. Research was undertaken into ways councils can support homes experiencing social vulnerability, and high exposure to heat, through retrofitting to improve thermal performance.



Council Ready

All sixty-eight councils across SA participated in a three-year program to increase the awareness and understanding of their emergency management roles and functions.

Through the project, emergency management planning is now embedded into business-as-usual, with greater consistency across councils. This work has resulted in increased preparedness across the state for future disaster events.



Digi-Prepped

Mighty Kingdom engaged with SA high school students and Red Cross to co-design an app named 'Danger Days.' The game engages young people via fun and interactive mini-games while conveying key disaster preparedness messages.



Measuring Disaster Resilience

There is no easy solution or endpoint to building resilience: it is a "wicked problem". In response SAFECOM is applying a complexity-based approach using an on-line tool developed by Wicked Lab. The tool tracks systemic change in relation to resilience building in SA by highlighting the impact of projects funded by disaster resilience and risk reduction grants, aligned to Stronger Together. The next step will be to track a broader range of resilience and risk reduction work, to identify progress and gaps.

