A Standardised approach to risks in Australia

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Building a culture of prevention is not easy. Whilst the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did not happen. Kofi Annan UNGA A/54/1.
Standardising Risk Assessments for Implementation Across Jurisdictions

- The journey so far
- Risk management frameworks
- Risk assessments
- Risk communication
- Risk registers
- A jurisdictional example
Issues arising in the late 1990s / early 2000s

- Climate change – deeper El Nino and La Nina weather patterns
- National and international threats (terrorism, foot and mouth disease, pandemic influenza)
- Increasing social and economic dependencies on critical infrastructure
- Canberra Bushfires
How did we get here?
Nationally Consistent Approaches

Council of Australian Governments 2002/3
Report on Natural Disasters in Australia which represented a historic shift from disaster response towards prevention, preparedness & mitigation

National Risk Assessment Framework 2007
Designed to improve the collective knowledge about natural hazard risk in Australia to support emergency risk management and natural hazard mitigation

National Partnership Agreement 2009
Funding from Commonwealth to States & Territories

National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 2010
Provide a contextualised emergency risk assessment methodology consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

National Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2011
A whole-of-nation resilience based approach to disaster management
There are seven strategic priorities identified in the Strategy:

- Leading change and coordinating effort
- Understanding risks
- Communicating with and educating people about risks
- Partnering with those who effect change
- Empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility
- Reducing risks in the built environment
- Supporting capabilities for disaster resilience
Risk Management Framework

Risk assessment is a component of a broader process of risk management that informs strategy development to reduce emergency risks

- Documentation of assessments (Risk registers)
- Adequacy of existing or need for improved controls (mitigation planning, capability development)
- Risk Communication (Community education, awareness and engagement)
- Residual risk /tolerances
- Risk governance
Community Resilience Programs

- Risk Assessment (guidance: NERAG)
- Emergency Management Planning
  - Mitigation Planning
  - Capability Development
- Hazard Identification (e.g. maps / reports, other products)
- Community education, awareness and engagement
  - (general public & individual householders)
- Risk Register (documents the risk assessment)
The NERAG’s risk criteria provide standard measures of:

- Consequence (scalable for local, regional, State/Territory & national application)
- Likelihood
- Confidence (in the risk assessment)
- Risk assessments using these criteria improve consistency and comparability
2012 Plans for Enhancing NERAG

- NERAG – *Review*
- NERAG – *Support*
  - Training Course
  - Practice guide
Risk Registers

- Granular practical application at local level
- Capability gaps
- Risk governance
Risk Communication

• Risk registers and their raw data are not a communication solution

• Data from risk registers and other repositories can be presented as information (e.g. maps) and communicated in ways target audiences can understand.

• Registers are only one of the strategies for improving for the behavioural changes needed to improve resilience.

• Example - London Community Risk Register
The Future: An integrated South Australian Emergency Risk Management System

- State Emergency Risk Assessment/Management System
  - Zone Emergency Risk Management System
    - Local Government Emergency Risk Management/Disaster Resilience Program
- Bushfire Management Area Plans
- Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (Climate Change)
Zone Emergency Risk Management System (ZERMS)

ZERMS project has 7 Stages:
- Commencement phase
- Establishing the context
- Conducting risk assessments
- Risk Treatment Plans
- Zone Emergency Management Plan (ZEMP)
- Exercising – validation of treatments and plans
- Monitor and review

Outputs from the ZERMS will inform State-Level planning and Local Government.

Jurisdictional-level planning will inform National-Level planning