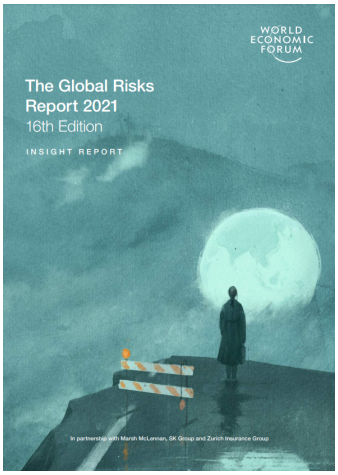
Government of South Australia
SES RESCUE
Emergency Management
April 2021
SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

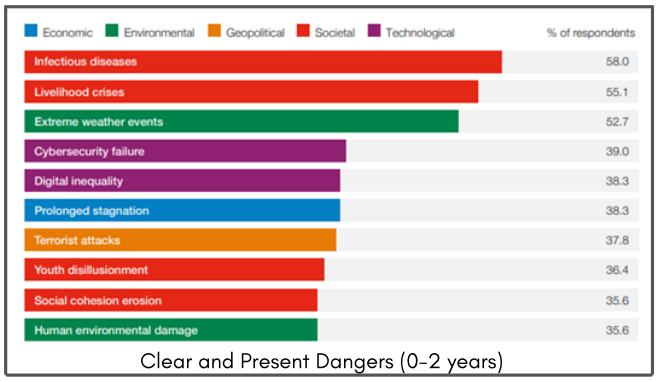
THE GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2021



The foundation of the Global Risks Report (the Report) comes from the Global Risks Perception Survey, completed by over 650 members of the World Economic Forum's diverse leadership communities.

In 2006, the Report warned that a "lethal flu, its spread facilitated by global travel patterns and uncontained by insufficient warning mechanisms, would present an acute threat." Not only has COVID-19 caused more than 2.8 million deaths, but the economic and long-term health impacts will continue to have devastating consequences.

In 2021, the Report states the highest likelihood risks of the next ten years are extreme weather, climate action failure and human-led environmental damage; as well as digital power concentration, digital inequality and cybersecurity failure.



Clear and Present Dangers (0-2 years)

Among the highest impact risks of the next decade, infectious diseases are in the top spot, followed by climate action failure and other environmental risks; as well as weapons of mass destruction, livelihood crises, debt crises and IT infrastructure breakdown.

For further information, visit the World Economic Forum website.

PlanSA - DESIGNING IN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

The National Construction Code (NCC) has introduced a new professional development course, **"Designing in Bushfire Prone Areas"** providing an opportunity to get up to date with NCC requirements. Understanding the nature and behaviour of bushfire events allows practitioners to better design and build where these events pose a risk.

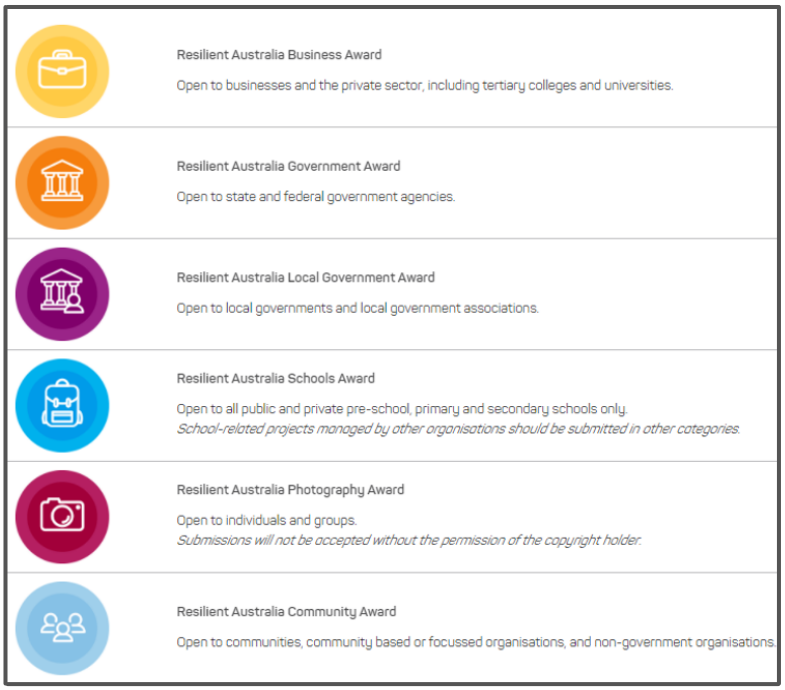
For further information, visit the Australian Building Codes Board website.

RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Applications for the 2021 Resilient Australia Awards are now open.

The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

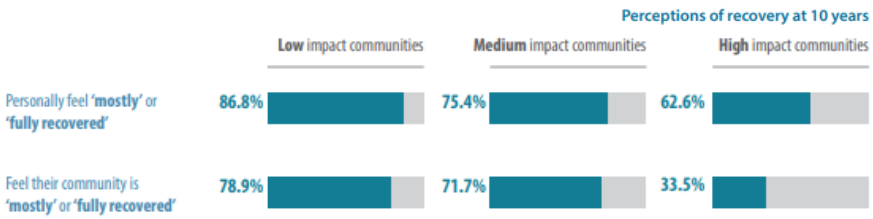
The awards recognise a wide range of initiatives, including related to Covid-19; with past projects centred on risk assessment and mitigation; mental health and wellbeing; education, training and research; and community engagement, as well as response and recovery. Applications close 3 June 2021. For further information, visit the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience website.



10 YEARS BEYOND BUSHFIRE REPORT

The Beyond Bushfires: Community, Resilience, and Recovery study was conducted to examine the impacts of the 2009 Victorian bushfires, including Black Saturday, on the mental health and wellbeing of community members, with a focus on how individual outcomes were influenced by social connections and community-level recovery.

The research was extended into the 10 years Beyond Bushfires study and a range of related disaster research studies. This report presents an overview of the key learnings in the 10 years since the bushfires.



The results showed individual and community capacity to recover from a disaster experience and subsequent disruptions, and to adapt to changed lives and environments. They also highlighted the influence of close friends and family, social networks and the natural environment on resilience and recovery.

For more information, visit the Uni of Melbourne website.

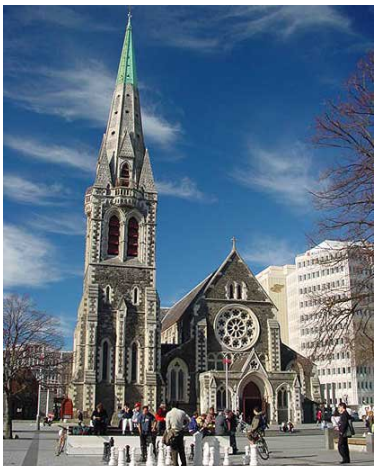
REMEMBERING CHRISTCHURCH

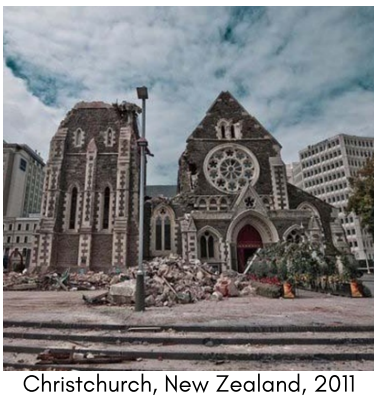
This year marks ten years since the Christchurch earthquake. On the 22nd February 2011, the 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Christchurch, 6kms south of the city. The New Zealand Civil Defence declared the event a Category 3 emergency, the highest possible for a regional disaster.

There were 185 deaths and 6,659 major injuries as a result, as well as extensive infrastructure damage, including over 10,000 homes. Global support flooded into Christchurch to assist with an extensive recovery and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) effort, including 600 Australian police, search and rescue, medical and forensic experts.

Ten years after the event, the AFAC Rescue Technical Group continues to build on the lessons of the Christchurch earthquake and strengthen ties between AFAC members in Australia and New Zealand.

Examples include the sharing of interagency experiences and learnings through the Wellington Exercise in 2018 and the development of the Urban Search and Technical Rescue Canine Capability Doctrine 2020. For more information, visit AFAC's website.





Christchurch, New Zealand, 2011

WHY SOME PEOPLE DON'T RESPOND TO WARNINGS: Writing effective short warning messages

> *People with dependents, higher self-efficacy and those with stronger social networks are more likely to respond to warnings and emergency messaging.*

Research shows that there are many different factors which influence the effectiveness of emergency messaging. With a significant increase in the use of social media and hazard apps and cell-broadcast alerting via the mobile networks, people who issue warnings want to know how the messages can be as effective as possible in changing behaviour.

Other factors include environmental cues and social cues (seeing neighbours prepare), the way people receive information- communication channels, frequency, level of detail, the ability to disrupt receivers activities are also influencing factors to response. New Zealand's National Emergency Management Agency has adopted guidelines and key elements based on evidence (Potter 2018) as to what should be included in an effective warning message.

For further information including the formation of short warning messages, visit the AIDR website.

NBN™ DISASTER SATELLITE SERVICES

Following the 2019/2020 bushfires, nbn™ begun expanding the services they offer. The expansion provides additional support for disaster-affected communities where terrestrial communications networks are temporarily impacted due to loss of power, or damage to communications infrastructure.

Disaster Satellite Services

Designed as a back-up communications connection, nbn™ Disaster Satellite Services can be switched to 'disaster mode' during an emergency event to provide free satellite broadband functionality, including Wi-Fi, for public use.

South Australian installation locations:

- Victor Group Base
- Kangaroo Island Group Base
- Tatiara Group Base
- Gambier Group Base
- Kingscote Station
- Loxton SES
- Mallee Group Control Centre
- Netley SES

Road Muster Trucks

Five new Road Muster Trucks – our nbn™ Sky Muster™ satellite-equipped vehicles – are hitting the road to provide valuable Wi-Fi connectivity to emergency workers and evacuated local residents. South Australia's truck is based in Greenfields.

Portable Satellite Kits

Twelve additional Portable Satellite Kits have also been added to nbn's emergency arsenal. Transportable in protective Pelican cases, these satellite-equipped kits can be deployed to areas where no other communications services are available to provide valuable support to emergency services in disaster situations.

For further information visit the nbnco website.

DISASTER RESILIENCE

To stay up to date between editions of EM News, sign up for Neil Dufty's *This Week in Disaster Resilience* for a range of articles related to disaster resilience throughout Australia and the world.