

# State Disaster Mitigation Plan

## Safer, more resilient and better prepared communities

Bush fire clouds over Sydney

### NSW is facing increasing challenges from disasters

Since 2019, NSW residents have endured more than 65 declared disasters, costing the government more than \$6 billion, with more than 20,000 homes damaged in 2022 alone.

New research shows the cost of disasters will hit \$9.1 billion per year by 2060 in damages to homes and infrastructure if action is not taken.

Historically, around 97% of disaster funding has been spent on response and recovery with only 3% spent on reducing risk.

That's why the NSW Government has established Australia's first State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) to better prepare for and reduce the risk of disasters before they happen.

### We now have a better understanding of our risk

The SDMP includes information on **9 natural hazards**:



Floods



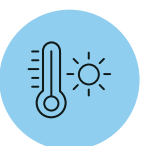
Storms and cyclones



Coastal hazards (erosion and inundation)



Bush fires



Heatwaves



Earthquakes



Landslides



Tornadoes



Tsunamis

In developing the Plan, detailed analysis was undertaken to work out the biggest threats to NSW. The results showed that storms and floods present the highest risk to homes, businesses and infrastructure, and heatwaves and bushfires have historically presented the greatest risk to life.

The SDMP draws on lessons learned from previous disasters, extensive research, advice from experts in industry, government, including Aboriginal specialists, and feedback from the community.

# We are taking action for a better prepared NSW

While there is no easy or single solution to reduce the impact of disasters, we now have a roadmap to reduce the risks where we can and adapt where we can't.

## The SDMP:

- Identifies a toolkit for reducing our exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards, including awareness and preparedness campaigns, evacuation and mitigation infrastructure, and warning systems.
- Provides a list of 37 short to medium term actions to address current policy and program gaps and reduce the cost and impact of disasters before they occur.
- Supports the delivery of local disaster adaptation planning by councils and other bodies to ensure a place-based approach to support communities.
- Improves future planning processes and informs rebuilding and reconstruction decisions after a disaster occurs.



## Some of the actions include:

- Assessing our building codes to consider how to improve design and construction standards for greater resilience to natural hazards.
- Early warning systems so that communities are better prepared when disaster strikes.
- Boosting the State's "Get Ready" preparedness campaigns to ensure communities are better equipped.
- A further investigation of mitigation infrastructure options like sand management to prepare for coastal erosion of the future.
- Working with the insurance industry to reflect risk reduction in the cost of insurance and advocate for greater affordability.
- Development of Disaster Adaptation plans to focus on local disaster mitigation, with 2 initial plans prioritised for the Northern Rivers and Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

The State's leading preparedness and recovery agency, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, will coordinate the delivery of the SDMP.

We will also work with local councils and Aboriginal landowners to prepare place-based, community centric disaster adaptation plans that will guide where and how to invest in much needed risk reduction activities. The next step for this is the delivery of a draft Disaster Adaptation Plan Guidelines and Framework in mid 2024.

## A way forward

The first State Disaster Mitigation Plan demonstrates that the NSW Government is stepping up to the challenges by providing a clear way forward to reduce our risk.

Where there are actions we can take Statewide, we will take them. Where local solutions are required, we will enable them. Where communities can take steps to be better prepared, we will support them.

**With this Plan, we are in a stronger position to create a safer and better prepared NSW.**



Read the [NSW State Disaster Mitigation Plan](#) for 2024-2026

