

Fact sheet

State Disaster Mitigation Plan for local councils

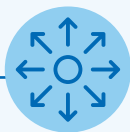
February 2024

The State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) is the NSW Government’s strategy and action plan for reducing our risk to natural hazards.

The SDMP:



Identifies NSW’s exposure to a range of natural hazards, such as bush fires and floods, and assesses how the associated risk changes over time due to population growth and climate change.



Identifies a toolkit of options to reduce our exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards, including community awareness and preparedness, mitigation and evacuation infrastructure, home modification, and strategic land-use planning.



Provides a comprehensive plan of 37 short to medium term actions to address policy and program gaps required for disaster risk reduction.



Supports local disaster adaptation plans to be prepared by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, agencies and local authorities, such as councils and Aboriginal landowners.

The SDMP was developed in consultation with Australian, State, and local governments, key industry stakeholders, Aboriginal experts, and the community. Some of the actions in the SDMP include:

- A further investigation of mitigation infrastructure options like sand management to prepare for coastal erosion of the future.
- Supporting Discrete Aboriginal Communities and other Aboriginal landowners in developing Disaster Adaptation Plans.
- Assessing our building codes to consider how to improve design and construction standards for more resilience to natural hazards.
- Working with the insurance industry to reflect risk reduction in the cost of insurance and advocate for greater affordability.
- Developing a Statewide plan for where it may make sense to move people away from areas of high risk, before a disaster occurs.
- Providing a central knowledge hub for using nature-based solutions such as urban greening, restoring ecosystems, or using Aboriginal land care management practices.
- Delivery of a multi-hazard, Statewide Get Ready program to raise awareness of disaster risk and embed community preparedness, including public campaigns and funding for council initiatives.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is coordinating the delivery of actions outlined in the SDMP, working in partnership with government and industry. We will continue to engage with the community and stakeholders to consider feedback as we implement actions, and develop the next SDMP, due in 2026. This will include progress and outcomes on the actions included in this Plan.

Disaster Adaptation Plans

Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) are local or regional place-based plans that will assess the specific natural hazard risks for an area now and in the future. It will set out the projects, strategies or actions to be taken to prevent or reduce the risks and the disasters they may cause. DAPs will include how the plan will be monitored and reported on. It will be important that these plans are developed with robust community participation so they reflect the needs and values of the local community.

The benefits of DAPs include:

- Providing up-to-date information to guide decision making, including land-use planning and investment decisions.
- Providing an opportunity for planning authorities to reassess the hazards and risks across their communities and on specific sites, allowing for determinations to be made on current knowledge and future modelling rather than historic decisions.
- Increasing community awareness of natural hazard risk and the responsiveness of communities to be better prepared.
- Guiding reconstruction decisions post disaster, by providing a vision of the future and guidance for building back better.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is currently preparing a DAP Guidelines and Framework to support disaster adaptation planning. This will be made available for feedback in mid 2024, prior to finalisation. Further engagement with local councils will occur during this consultation process.



We invite you to explore the State Disaster Mitigation Plan 2024–2026 visit <https://nsw.gov.au/reducingrisk/sdmp>

Please contact us with any questions or feedback via email: sdmp@reconstruction.nsw.gov.au



Flood awareness workshops with diverse communities in Western Sydney. Photo by Adam Hollingworth