



Australian Business Roundtable welcomes creation of Resilience NSW

The Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities (the Roundtable) has congratulated the NSW Government on the creation of Resilience NSW.

The new agency, to be led by former NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, will coordinate prevention, preparedness and recovery efforts for crises that impact NSW.

Since it was formed in 2012, the Roundtable has issued five reports outlining the importance of collaboration between all levels of government, communities, businesses and not-for-profits, to build resilience in communities to help them withstand the impacts of natural disasters.

The most recent Roundtable report, *Building resilience to natural disasters in our states and territories* (2017), recommended that resilience should be incorporated into all aspects of policy and decision making, to build community resilience and address the long-term costs of natural disasters.

IAG Managing Director and CEO Peter Harmer said: “The establishment of an agency focused on resilience presents opportunities for a more coordinated approach to natural disasters and significant events, such as the devastating summer bushfires or COVID-19, that have deep and long-lasting impacts on communities across NSW.

“Commissioner Fitzsimmons provided outstanding leadership and guidance of our incredible RFS volunteers during this summer’s bushfire crisis, and we’re grateful he will continue to serve the people of NSW as the first Commissioner of Resilience NSW.

“This year has truly been one like no other and has demonstrated the need for businesses, the government and the community to work together and think differently about how we can overcome the challenges we are facing.

“We congratulate the NSW Government on creating Resilience NSW and welcome its dedication to building resilience into prevention, preparedness and recovery planning,” Mr Harmer said.

Optus Chairman Paul O’Sullivan said: “We support the creation of Resilience NSW and the appointment of RFS Commissioner Fitzsimmons as its new head. After the summer bushfires and the current COVID-19 crisis, there is little doubt that we will encounter new challenges in the state and beyond. Planning ahead for these scenarios at all levels of government and with business is vital.”



About the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities

The Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities was formed in 2012 to influence public policy via evidence-based reporting on the unsustainable cost of disasters on life, property and the economy.

The Roundtable members are leaders of Australian Red Cross, IAG, Munich Re, Optus and Westpac Group.

Members of the Roundtable champion the need for a sustainable, coordinated national approach to make communities more resilient and people safer. They believe that national investment in disaster resilience and preventative activities is the most effective way to protect communities and reduce the impact of disasters.

For more information please go to our website:

<http://australianbusinessroundtable.com.au/>

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