



NSW Bushfire Inquiry shows preparedness and resilience are ‘central to the way forward’

The Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities (ABR) welcomes the comprehensive findings and recommendations of the independent *NSW Bushfire Inquiry*, and the Government’s swift in principle acceptance of recommendations.

The ABR has long been an advocate for community-led disaster resilience strategies, and believes all Australians have a role in ensuring we are prepared for severe natural hazards.

The NSW Bushfire Inquiry report emphasises this need for place-based strategies where communities have a more significant role in the planning, prioritisation and implementation of a suite of techniques for local hazard reduction. It also recognises the role that critical infrastructure plays in community resilience, with specific “actions needed now to ensure bushfire preparedness and protection of communications and power infrastructure.”

The ABR submission to the inquiry included a call for government, business and community to invest in resilience programs that drive education and behavioural change, and risk-aware, data-informed land use and infrastructure planning. The ABR welcomes the range of recommendations to progress action in these areas in order to protect, prepare and build resilience into existing communities and decrease recovery costs.

As the inquiry report shows, extreme fires and fire seasons are likely to become more frequent, requiring further action to ensure communities are prepared.

The ABR believes that when State governments, agencies and departments collaborate with other decision-makers for preparation and planning, it fosters a more holistic approach to resilience. ABR Members look forward to engaging with Government to support implementation of the inquiry’s recommendations.

The ABR has commissioned five independent [research reports](#) providing clear evidence of the increasing costs of natural disasters and specific recommendations that, if implemented, would minimise the devastation and costs of these type of disasters and make Australian communities more resilient.

Our submission to the NSW inquiry is available on [our website](#).

