

Glossary

Disaster risk reduction

The practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters. This would include initiatives to reduce exposure to hazards and the vulnerability of people and property, judiciously manage land and the environment, and improve preparedness for adverse events (United Nations, 2009).

Foundational data

Base layers of locational information used for assessing natural disaster risks, as well as a range of other broader purposes. This encompasses exposure data (assets at risk, population and community demographics), as well as fundamental geographic data (geological, topographic and weather information).

Hazard data

Hazard-specific information on the risks of different disaster types, providing contextual data about the history of events and the risk profile for Australian locations.

Impact data

Data on the potential and actual impacts associated with natural disasters, including information on historical costs and damage, and the current and predicted future value at risk.

Mitigation

Measures taken before a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment (COAG, 2011). *[In climate change terminology, mitigation refers to actions to address the causes of climate change. This generally involves actions to reduce anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases that may contribute to the warming of the atmosphere. This is **not** the definition of mitigation used in this report.]*

Natural disasters

A natural disaster is a naturally occurring rapid onset event that causes a serious disruption to a community or region (Productivity Commission, 2014). For the purpose of this report, we define natural disasters as bushfires, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, severe thunderstorms or storm surges.

Resilience

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, adjust to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner. This would include initiatives to preserve and restore essential structures and functions (United Nations, 2009). This paper is focused on the component of resilience that deals with 'resisting', or actions taken in advance of a disaster to reduce the impact.

Acronyms

ABCB	Australian Building Codes Board
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AC	Alternating current
ACMA	Australian Communications and Media Authority
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AUD	Australian dollar
CBA	Cost-benefit analysis
CBD	Central business district
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPI	Consumer price index
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAE	Deloitte Access Economics
DC	Direct current
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
GDP	Gross domestic product
IAG	Insurance Australia Group
IS	Infrastructure Sustainability
ISCA	Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia
IT	Information technology
NDMP	National Disaster Mitigation Program
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NEMMCO	National Electricity Market Management Company
NPV	Net present value
NSW	New South Wales
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PV	Present value
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
SMS	Short Message Service
UN	United Nations
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States (of America)
VCR	Value of customer reliability
VTTS	Value of travel time savings
WA	Western Australia