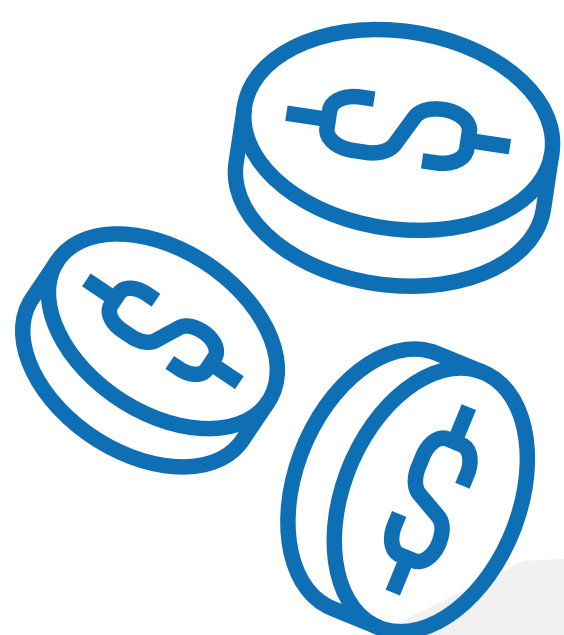




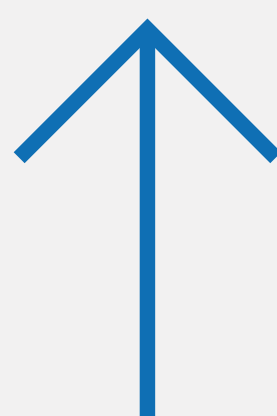
# BUILDING RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN OUR STATES AND TERRITORIES

## NATURAL DISASTERS IN AUSTRALIA



The total economic  
cost of natural  
disasters in Australia  
over the 10 years to 2016 averaged  
**\$18.2 billion per year**  
equivalent to 1.2% of gross domestic  
product

This cost is forecast to grow by



**3.4%**  
per year

By 2038

the costs of natural disasters will

**DOUBLE**

By 2050

the cost will total around

**\$39 billion** per year

Natural disasters or extreme weather events have impacted more than

**9 million Australians**  
in the past **30 years**

## NATURAL DISASTERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA)

The total economic cost of natural  
disasters in WA over the 10 years  
to 2016 has averaged

**\$1bn**  
per year

Costs by natural  
disaster type

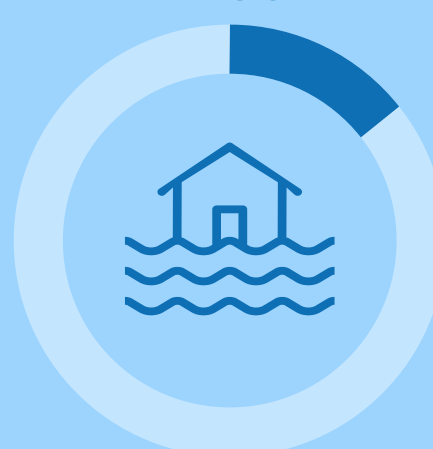
54%  
HAIL



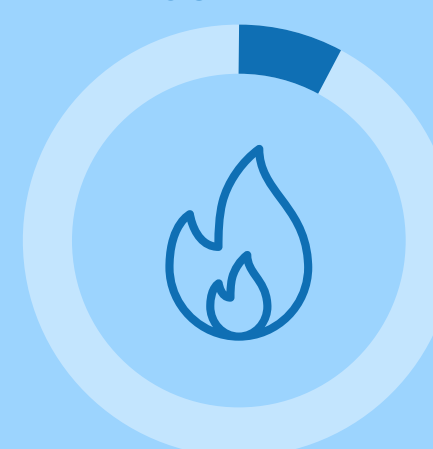
15%  
CYCLONE



15%  
FLOOD



13%  
BUSHFIRE



3%  
EARTHQUAKE



Today, based on 50 years of historical data,  
the total economic cost of natural disasters  
in WA is estimated to be

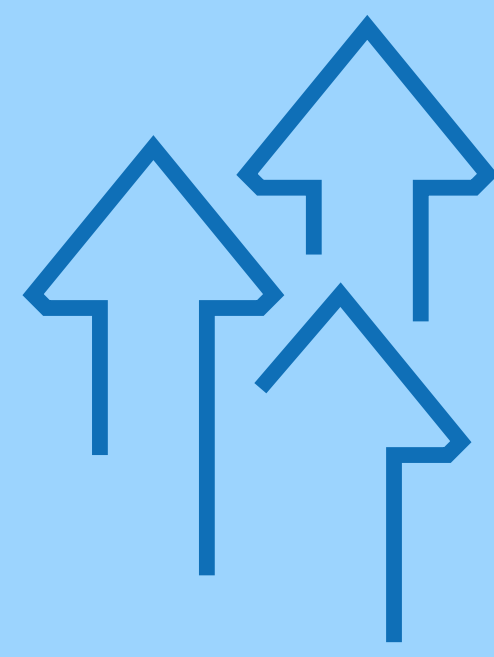
**\$700m**  
per year



This cost is forecast to reach

# \$2.4bn

a year by 2050

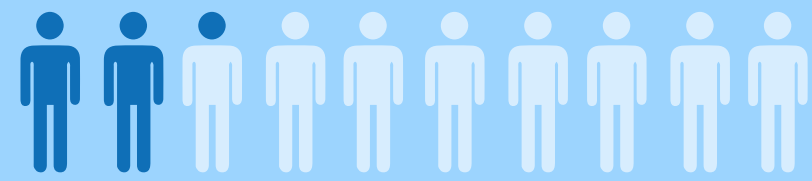


growing at

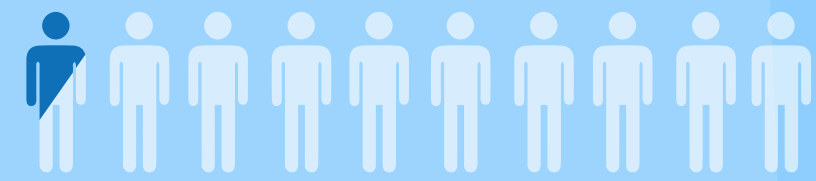
# 4%

per year

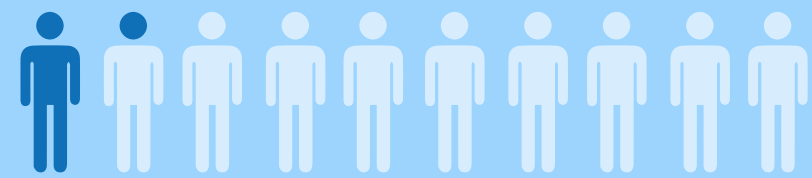
Percentage of  
WA population at  
**HIGH OR  
EXTREME  
RISK**



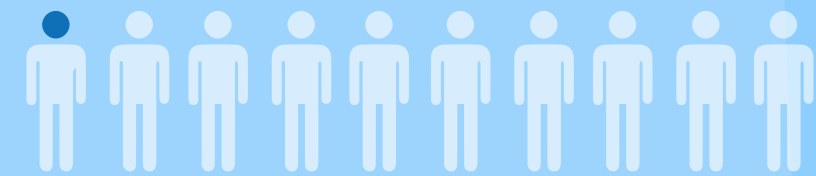
**22%**  
EARTHQUAKE



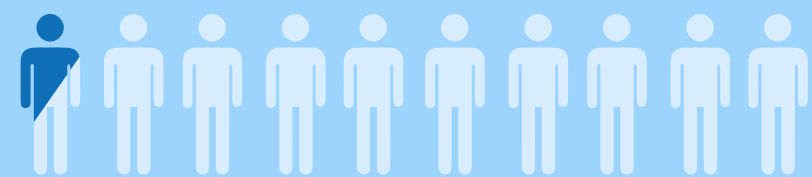
**4%**  
TROPICAL  
CYCLONE



**11%**  
BUSHFIRE



**1%**  
STORM



**6%**  
FLOOD



**\$6.2m** has been invested in resilience per year under the Australian and state governments' Natural Disaster Resilience Program since 2013–14

## BUILDING RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN OUR STATES AND TERRITORIES

Each state and territory faces different natural hazards. This impacts the total cost of natural disasters in each jurisdiction and which tools will best build and foster resilience.

Current Australian and state government spending on direct disaster recovery is around **\$2.75 billion per year**, compared to funding directly for natural disaster resilience of approximately **\$100 million per year**.

Further investment in disaster resilience is essential to lessen the forecast increase in costs. This investment includes physical measures, such as resilient infrastructure, and community measures, such as preparedness programs.

Beyond funding and emergency management, state and territory governments are responsible for a number of areas where reform can build more resilient communities.

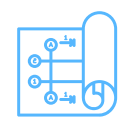
These areas include:



**Community awareness**



**Building controls**



**Land use planning**



**Infrastructure**



**Data collection and provision**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To build greater resilience to natural disasters in our states and territories, the Roundtable recommends the following:

# 1

**Embed resilience across all aspects of policy and decision-making**

# 2

**Prioritise resilience investments by considering the broader economic and social benefits that result**

# 3

**Improve understanding of disaster risks and costs to society**

# 4

**Collaborate and coordinate to build resilience and address the long-term costs of natural disasters**

## THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE & SAFER COMMUNITIES

Since 2012, the Roundtable has been working to build a country better equipped to handle Australia's natural disasters and extreme weather events.



For more information, please visit  
[australianbusinessroundtable.com.au](http://australianbusinessroundtable.com.au)