

# Glossary

## Adaptation

The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities (The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016).

## Adaptive capacity

The factors that enable adjustment of responses and behaviours through learning, adaptation and transformation.

## Coping capacity

The factors influencing the ability of a community to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural disaster

## Direct tangible costs

Those incurred as a result of the hazard event and have a market value such as damage to properties, infrastructure, vehicles and crops (Bureau of Transport Economics, 2001).

## Disaster risk reduction

The practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including 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).

## Economic cost

While there are varying definitions of the economic cost of a natural disaster (Hallegatte 2015), this report defines the total economic cost as including (direct and indirect) tangible and intangible costs.

## Hard infrastructure

Hard infrastructure refers to physical structures or facilities that support the society and economy including roads, bridges, railways, ports, airports, school and hospitals as well as telecommunications, energy, water and sewage infrastructure.

## Incidence of outcomes

The number of new cases of a condition, symptom, death or injury that develop during a specific time period, such as a year. It shows the likelihood that a person in that population will be affected by the condition.

## Indirect tangible costs

The flow-on effects that are not directly caused by the natural disaster itself, but arise from the consequences of the damage and destruction such as business disruption, clean-up emergency relief and recovery costs, and network disruptions (Bureau of Transport Economics, 2001; Productivity Commission, 2015).

## Intangible costs

Captures direct and indirect damages that cannot be easily priced such as death and injury, impacts on health and wellbeing, and community connectedness.

Intangible costs include the opportunity cost of expending resources: that is, the value of the next best alternative use of the resource that is foregone. For instance, if time is spent in hospital due to injury caused by a natural disaster, the opportunity cost could include lost leisure time or lost wages from not working.

## Mitigation

Measures taken before a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment (Council of Australian Governments (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.]*

## Preparedness

Disaster preparedness is the set of actions, knowledge and skills that people use to reduce the impacts of disasters (Australian Red Cross, 2015).

### Prevention

To hinder, deter or mitigate disasters, while maintaining readiness to deal with disaster events (Prosser & Peters, 2010).

### Recovery

The coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities in rebuilding physical infrastructure and restoring emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing (Emergency Management Australia, 2015).

### 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, including initiatives to preserve and restore essential structures and functions (United Nations, 2009).

### Response

To respond rapidly and decisively to a disaster and manage its immediate consequences (Prosser & Peters, 2010).

### Social capital

Social networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co operation within or among groups (OECD, 2007).

### Social impact

Social impact is the effect of natural disasters on the health and wellbeing of individuals and families, and/or the effect on the social fabric of affected communities. This report estimates the economic cost of social impacts.

### Soft mitigation

Soft mitigation includes mitigation actions which modify behaviour or embed risk in decision-making such as information provision, land use planning and building regulations (Productivity Commission 2015).



Members of the Uranquinty community in NSW learn how to fill sandbags and build their own effective sandbag wall to help stop floodwater entering properties. (NSW SES)

# Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEM	Australian Emergency Management
AUD	Australian dollar
BCR	Benefit-cost ratio
BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
BTE	Bureau of Transport Economics
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
CBA	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
CCIQ	Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland
CDE	Chronic disease exacerbation
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CPES	Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DATM	Disaster Assessment Training Manual
DALY	Disability-adjusted life year
DSCC	Dungog Shire Community Council
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GDP	Gross domestic product
GP	General practitioner
HILDA	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia
HR	Human resources
ICA	Insurance Council of Australia
JMA	Japan Meteorological Agency
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
NDRP	Natural Disaster Resilience Program
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NRMA	National Roads and Motorists' Association
NSDR	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
NSW	New South Wales
OBPR	Office of Best Practice Regulation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

PCL	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
QLD	Queensland
RACV	Royal Automobile Club of Victoria
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SES	State Emergency Service
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
US	United States (of America)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBAF	Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund
VSLY	Value of statistical life year
WHO	World Health Organization