

Overview of Geeveston Disaster Resilience Workshops

Disasters have varied, complex and long-term impacts on people's lives, including on their wellbeing, quality of life and social connections, but individuals and communities have capacity to cope with and recover from these impacts. Disaster resilience focuses on strengthening social capital and collective efficacy, as well as taking practical actions to prepare.

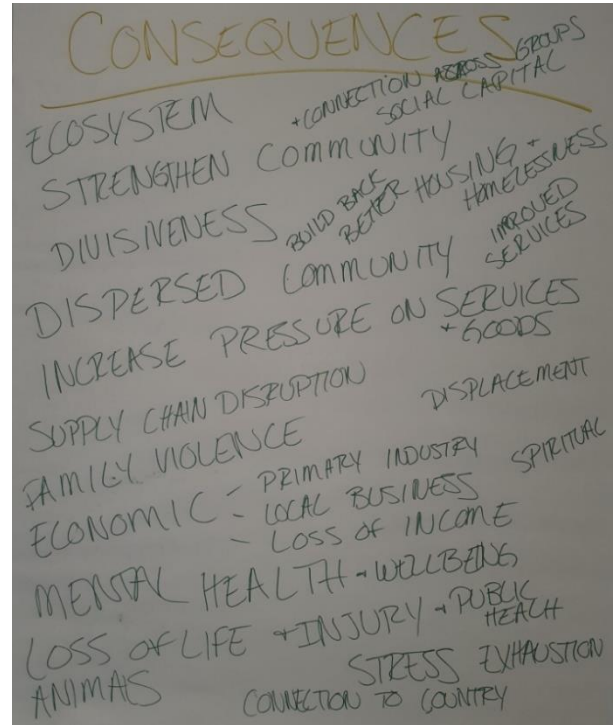
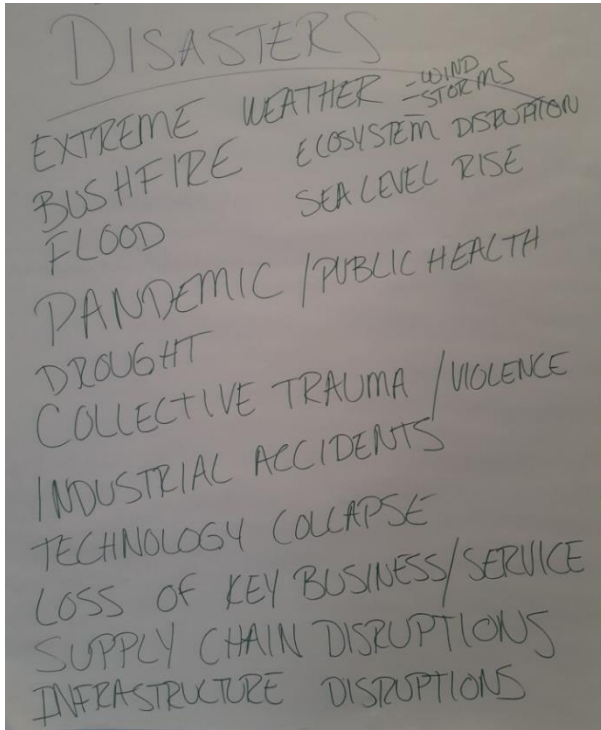
The risks that people in Tasmania face are becoming more frequent and complex, with communities often impacted by overlapping events, such as drought, bushfires and pandemic. We have repeatedly seen that Geeveston is strong and resilient but there is more that can be done to prepare for, respond to, and recover well from disasters. Experience from international and interstate disasters shows that communities which are well connected, and have done work to prepare themselves, are able to cope better and recover faster from the impacts

Centred around four facilitated workshops, which aim to shift community leaders from discovery through planning to action in a relatively short period of time. Through a community-led approach to disaster resilience, participant communities gain a better understanding of the consequences of disaster, identify their strengths, needs & priorities, and develop locally-appropriate and locally-owned action plans to strengthen resilience. As a result, they are better positioned to minimise the psychosocial impact of, and to recover more quickly after disasters.



Workshop 1

Overview of the project and explored concepts of disaster resilience, consequences of disasters, shared responsibility and community identity. We mapped local assets, risks, networks and places that are important to community. These maps were used by the SES Storm and Flood Ready program to inform their community flood protection plan for Geeveston.



Workshop 2

We used a Resilience Measurement Tool in the second workshop to gauge the current state of Resilience in Geeveston. While resilience is a process rather than a static state, the Resilience Measurement Tool, provided a point-in-time snapshot of some key measures important to resilience, providing guidance on aspects of community life that community could focus on in order to strengthen resilience over time.

The Measurement Tool highlights 4 key measures of Resilience - Community Connection, Risks & Vulnerabilities, Planning and Procedures, and Available Resources. Each has a range of indicators associated with it that are used to inform a score for that measure.



Decision-making about the Scorecard was an interactive process that involved representatives council, community organisations and individuals from the community. Much of the value in this process comes through challenging assumptions and having discussions that require community to consider issues from multiple perspectives, coming to an agreed position together.

The results that were agreed upon for all 4 themes, as well as the overall score sat right in the middle, showing that there are lots of good things already happening and

also that there are areas that can be improved. The scores themselves really weren't important, it was about drawing out the knowledge amongst the group and testing our assumptions.

Workshop 3

We were able to develop an impressive list of ideas for strengthening resilience in Geeveston. The ideas built upon the shared knowledge and understandings generated through our first two workshops, where we completed a resilience measurement tool, detailed who makes up our community, mapped local assets, risks, and what's important to us and identified the consequence that we might expect from being impacted by any of the disasters we identified.



Workshop 4

An opportunity to reality check the ideas prioritised at the previous workshop, start some more detailed planning to flesh out the ideas, gauge where people were keen to put energy, and celebrate the work done so far. The 4 initiatives below were prioritised by the group, with a convenor nominated to lead the next steps towards implementation.

- **Creation of a Geeveston Welcome Pack** – a general information pack including a welcome from local indigenous Elder, links to community services and organisations, fun things like good platypus viewing points and vouchers for local businesses/organisations to increase engagement. Distribution via hubs, such as post office and GECO with online version also available.
- **Establishing regular neighbourhood events which include preparedness activities** – micro-local gatherings where neighbours come together over food to connect with one another. This was combined with the idea of workshops to help individuals and businesses create emergency plans, so that



preparedness activities would be incorporated into the street/neighbourhood parties.

- **Employ a resilience project officer** – secure funding for a part-time Resilience Coordinator, to be based at Council. This role would be able to support all of the other initiatives and be a resource for the whole of the region.
- **Development of a Geeveston specific emergency preparedness plan** – A collaboration of local business, government and emergency service agencies and utilising existing emergency management plans to develop a preparedness plan that addresses the specific needs of the greater Geeveston area to help protect community resources, infrastructure and amenity.

Next Steps

- Share outcomes of the workshops with the wider community and encourage others to get involved. See Appendix 1 (below) for details.
- Each of the 4 initiatives has a nominated group convenor, who is responsible for getting the group together to progress the next steps.
- For some, the first step will be to recruit support from the Council to co-lead the work, for others it will be to do some research and others will need to gauge interest of other organisations in the community to support implementation.
- We agreed to come back together as a group in July to give an update of how things are progressing, share what's working well and help troubleshoot any barriers that have arisen. Red Cross will organise this gathering.
- Discussion on how we can evaluate the success of the initiatives make a record of our activities as we go.
- Explore governance – is there a need for a supporting structure or organisation to coordinate communications between the groups and manage administration needs?
 - If so, are there existing groups who can serve this function, or do we need to put something in place?

Appendix 1 – Geeveston Community Action Plan

**Green highlights indicate prioritised actions with working groups formed

Geeveston COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN (Last Updated 3/05/2022)			
Resilience Domain	Issue being addressed	Ideas for Activity	Supports Before (B) During (D) or After (A) an emergency
Available Resources	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection; Planning	Regular facilitated workshops to develop (household/business) emergency plans (case studies, mentors, quick reference flowchart as poster template and videos) maybe simulated exercises as a community	B, D
Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Neighbour Day or Geeveston Day - facilitate local street BBQs (create a kit like clean up australia day?) to encourage phone tree and some sharing of emergency plans. Participating streets could be in a competition for a prize? free ingredients?	B, D, A
Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Paid Role - Community liaison and resilience + recovery - to co-ordinate all these ideas! To be a local connector/point of contact for locals, businesses, have overall view of implementation	B, D, A

Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Geeveston welcome pack for new residents - delivered via Post Office (joint project with various local agencies/groups). include notice of: next "welcome event" (quarterly?); coffee place; community hub; networks, connection, local knowledge and resources.	B, D, A
Planning & Procedures	Planning	Geeveston specific emergency preparedness plan	B, D
Risk & Vulnerability	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Identify new residents to the community – create formal welcome program – include seasonal workers - Include transient people – promote Huon FM and ABC as information source	B, D, A
Risk & Vulnerability	Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Develop vulnerable people register/database as offshoot of 'connecting' program	B, D, A
Risk & Vulnerability	Communication & knowledge Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Get to know your neighbour program	B, D, A
Risk & Vulnerability	Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Build phone trees, with neighbourhood key person	B, D, A
Risk & Vulnerability	Planning	Community helping community – helping early (we can't depend on services being available).	B, D, A
Risk & Vulnerability	Planning; Access and Transport	Expanded role for Area Connect in transporting isolated people	B, D, A
Available Resources	Planning; Assets and Resources	A Geeveston specific disaster plan (to include Port Huon to Surges Bay) - need for identified Geeveston evacuation centre - priority for local evacuation resources/locations eg school, CFLC	B, D, A
Available Resources	Planning	Engage with local businesses - large businesses to mentor smaller businesses in disaster planning	B, D, A
Available Resources	Planning; Assets and Resources	Register of resources (business and community) developed in advance of disaster	
Available Resources	Planning	All future government planning to include disaster planning	
Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Know your neighbour program	

Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Establish phone trees with family, friends, neighbours	B, D, A
Community Connection	Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Ensure virtual accessibility for everything	B, D, A
Community Connection	Communication & knowledge; Social Cohesion & Community Connection	Community Hub - GeCo - it is a natural hub; Pharmacy and Medical Centres as info hubs and outreach; use town hall as info central	B, D, A
Community Connection	Communication & knowledge	App that sends push notifications with important information during an event and prompting before	B, D
Community Connection	Access and Transport	Carpooling network	B, A
Community Connection	Social Cohesion & Community Connection; assets & resources	Collective regional food hubs/crop swaps - bringing larger region together	B, A
Planning & Procedures	Communication & knowledge; Response	Ensure local knowledge is incorporated into response agency IMTs (break down barriers between local on-ground folks and head office)	D
Planning & Procedures	Communication & knowledge	School preparedness Program	B
Planning & Procedures	Communication & knowledge	Develop habit triggers (like smoke alarm batteries) eg emergency food kit check at solstices	B, D
Planning & Procedures	Assets & Resources	Create community stockpiles instead of just household stockpiles - ensure accessible to those at increased risk	D, A
Planning & Procedures	Planning; Social Cohesion & Community Connection; Communication & knowledge	simulated exercises or drills with emergency response agencies - gather for beer and snag afterwards or at feast	B, D
Planning & Procedures	Planning	Council (or SES?) work with all local social infrastructure organisations to ensure they have emergency plans and do drills	B, D
Planning & Procedures	Planning	Webpage to compare aggregated data on street level preparedness (eg how many with kits? plans? etc)	B
Planning & Procedures	Communication & knowledge	Use existing local events (eg feast) for info sharing	B