

# What is disaster recovery?

- The webinar will start at **14:00 AEDT**
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**Host:** Amanda Leck  
Executive Director  
AIDR

AIDR Recovery Matters webinar series

# What is disaster recovery?

 March 16, 2020     2pm AEDT     [aidr.org.au/events](https://aidr.org.au/events)

## GUEST SPEAKERS

John Richardson – Australian Red Cross | Kirsten Jenkins – Maroondah City Council

# First presenter: John Richardson

John Richardson is the National Resilience Adviser for Australian Red Cross. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne with the Beyond Bushfires Research Project.

He has 23 years of experience in recovery in government and NGO settings, at individual, local, state, national and international levels. He was the State Recovery Manager for Victoria in the early 2000s. He has also worked closely with disaster affected individuals and communities.

John has a background in Geography and Nursing, with a strong interest in the human impacts of disaster, particularly death and bereavement.



# What is recovery?

**John Richardson**

National Resilience Adviser



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# Knowledge

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Strap yourselves in while we jump to light speed

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Context is the key



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# Communities

“Every community is composed of a variety of organizations, encompassing all those—large, small, public, private—which are concerned with the on-going tasks maintaining community life.

They are, in effect, the normal problem solving arms of the community. In their daily activities, each of these organizations develops routine ways of handling their tasks, allocating their resources, making decisions, channelling communications, and maintaining their organization domains”.

Russell Dynes 1970



# Human Impacts of Disaster

- Health
- Relationships
- Housing
- Livelihoods and costs
- Grief and loss

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Social costs tend to **persist**  
**over a person's lifetime**  
while most tangible costs  
are **one-off**



**There people who are over represented in the statistics**

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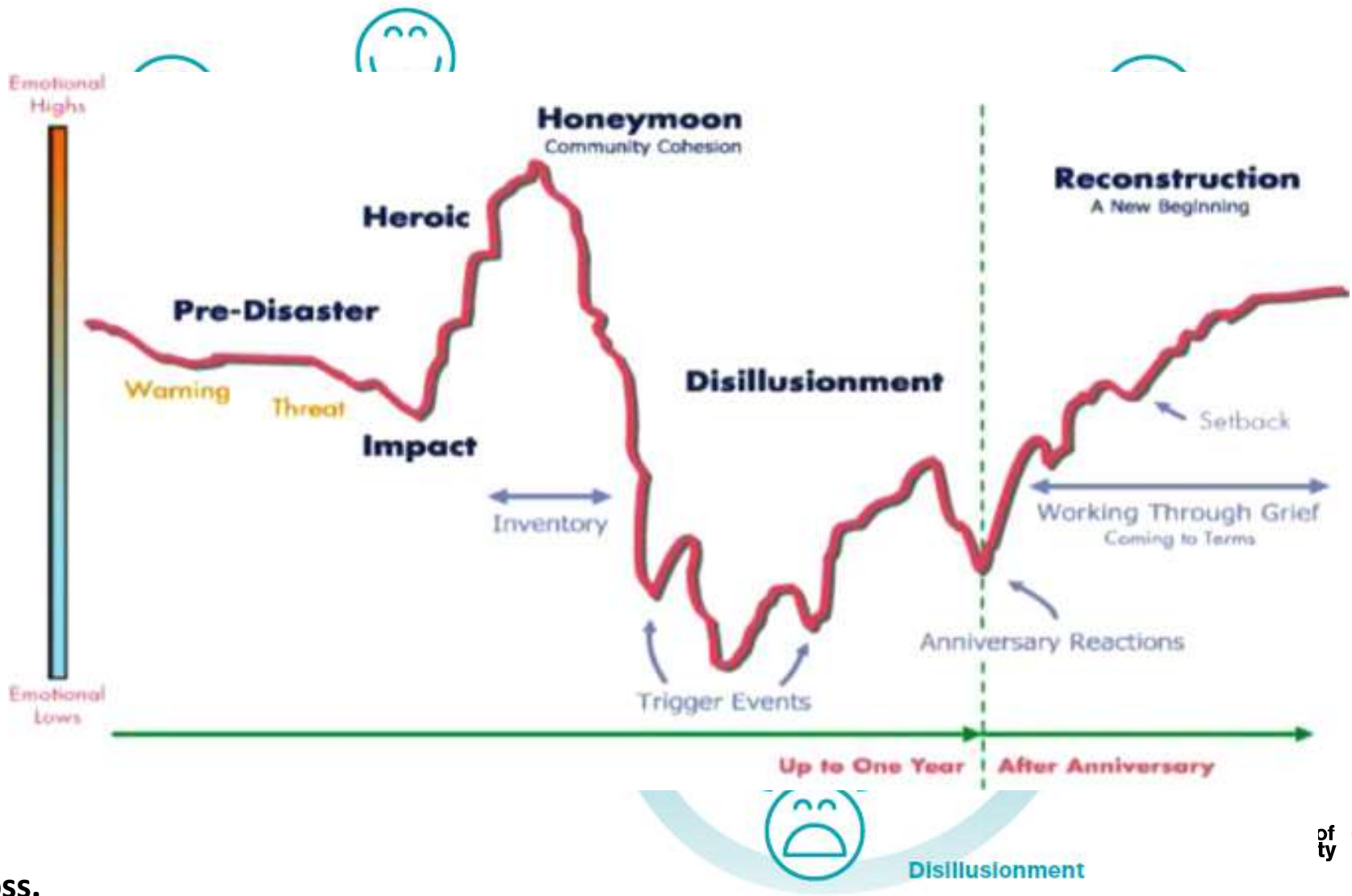


# Human responses to disaster

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# What happens to people?

- People are affected by emergencies in lots of different ways
  - Cognitively
  - Physically
  - Behaviourally
  - Emotionally
  - Socially
  - Existentially

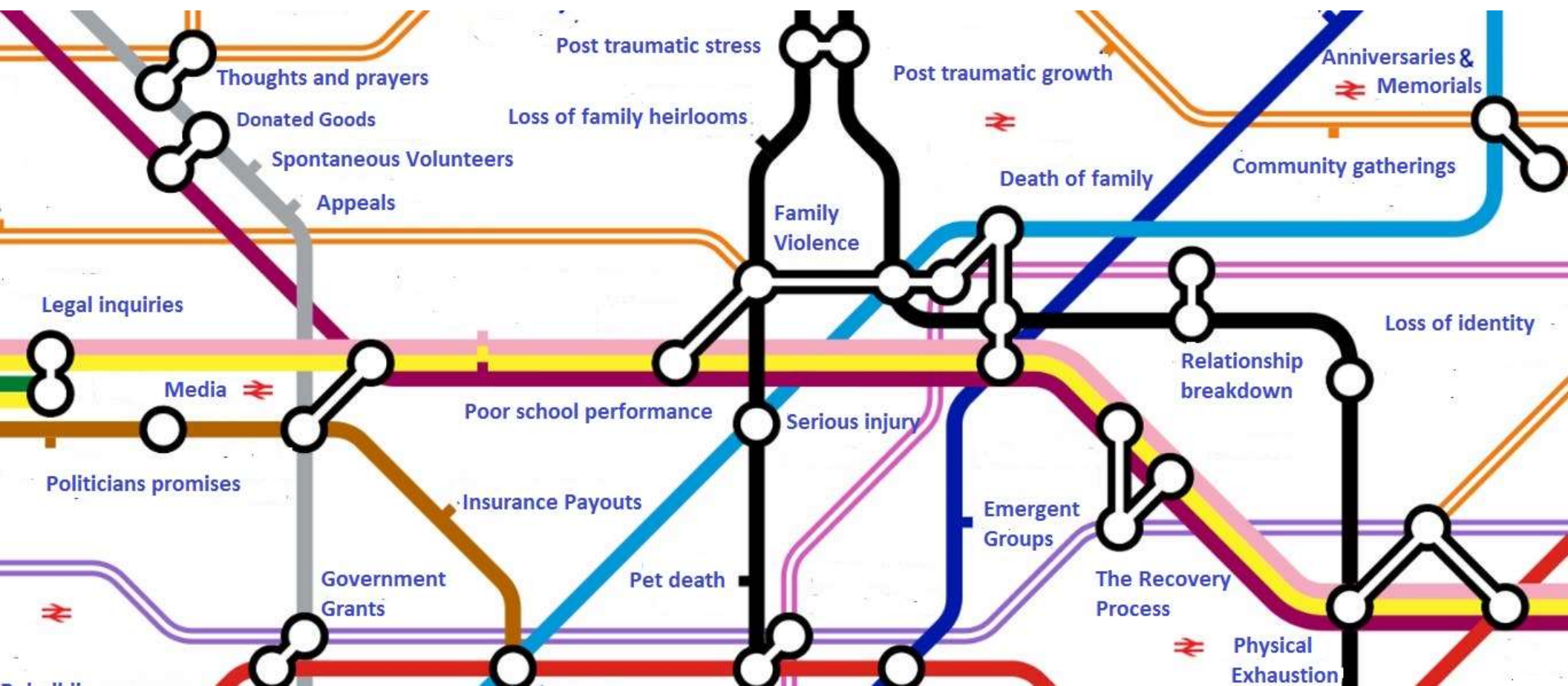


# What happens in community

- Structures and environment is changed
- Social capital is drawn on
- Community processes altered



# Recovery is a complex system





Recovery is more than the basics

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# Defining recovery is not easy...

The restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better', to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

UNISDR 2017



**“Being recovered is being able to  
live a life you have reason to value”**

– Anne Leadbeater

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# Community led recovery

**“...no-one can take away our right to make our own decisions or to interfere with those we have made...we don't need everything done for us, as we are neither useless nor helpless”**

– Survivor, 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires

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# Recovery is long term

Time 2: 5 years post bushfires


POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER



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Special coverage China Power: Communist cash, Australian politics and the battle for influence



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## Some shops still empty 10 years after superstorm swept through Wallsend

1233 ABC Newcastle By Dan Cox and Karen Shrosbery  
Posted Mon at 7:29am



- Volunteers reflect on saving lives in Pasha Bulker storm 10 years on
- Hunter Valley soldiers remembered 100 years after deaths in WWI battle



# Recovery programming

- Do no harm
- Strengths focus
- People centred, demand driven
- Inclusive, leave nobody behind
- Long term, 5 years minimum
- Networked approaches work best
- Plan strategically, and dynamically
- And we have to learn

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# Politics

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# Media

- Will shape the narrative
- Pressure of a story to tell.
- No set standards for disaster
- Can have a positive and negative impact on affected people.
- People are overwhelmed by information
- Recovery stories are harder to “sell”
- The rise of citizen journalism
- Journalists are people too



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# Goodwill



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# Commemoration



# The Handbook



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# National Principles for Disaster Recovery

Successful recovery relies on:

- Understanding the context
- Recognising complexity
- Using community-led approaches
- Ensuring coordination of all activities
- Employing effective communication
- Acknowledging and building capacity.



# Inclusion

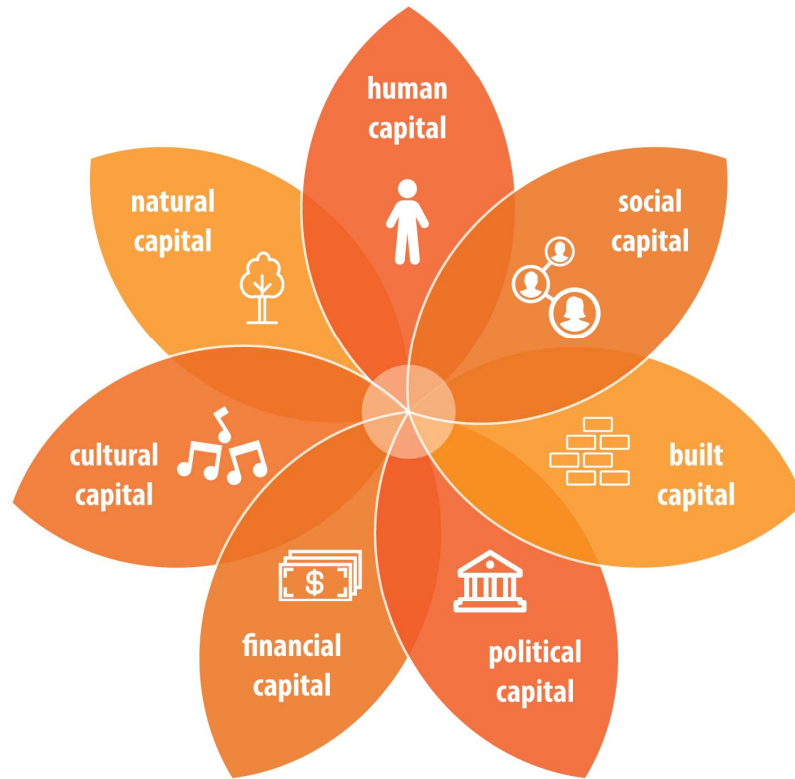


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# Recovery Capitals

Supporting wellbeing after disasters



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MELBOURNE



MASSEY UNIVERSITY  
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

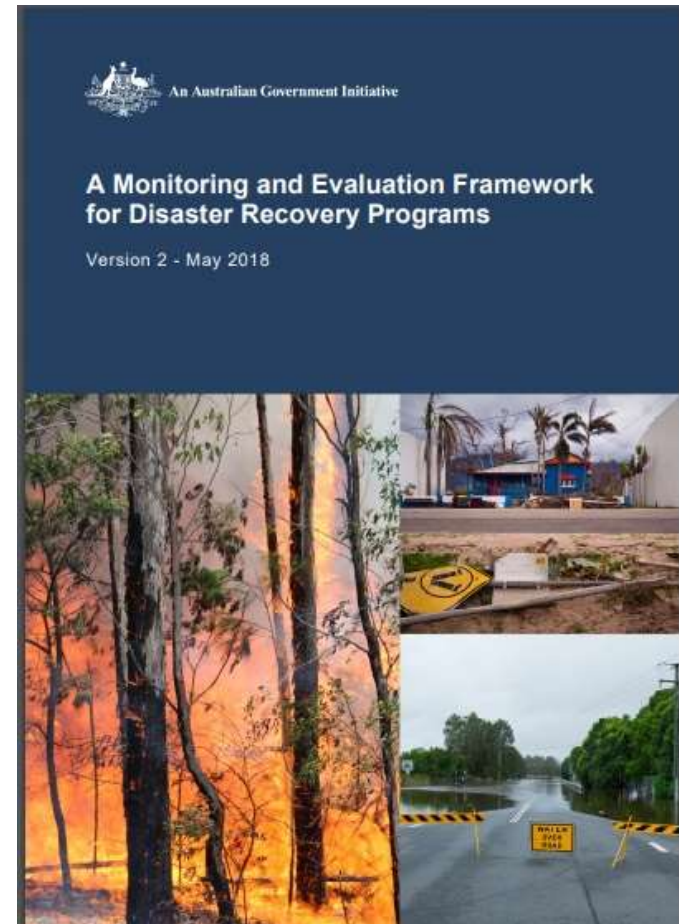
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# Recovery outcomes

- A sustainable community has the capability to manage its own recovery, without government disaster-related assistance.
- A resilient community is better able to withstand a future disaster.



Thank you!

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# What is recovery?

**John Richardson**

National Resilience Adviser



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## Second presenter: Kirsten Jenkins

Kirsten is the Manager of Health, Local Laws and Emergency Management at Maroondah City Council. She has worked at Councils in both rural and metro areas. Kirsten was the Bushfire Recovery Coordinator in Nillumbik Shire Council's response to the February 2009 bushfires that affected the municipality, both in recovery and public health areas.

She has been to Haiti and Nepal following their earthquakes as a Community Health delegate with the Australian Red Cross. She had a role in the recovery team at Emergency Management Victoria through the bushfires over the 15/16 summer. Since 2003, she has been involved in training Environmental Health Officers in their role after disasters.

She started working at Maroondah City Council in April 2016, and is currently their Municipal Recovery Manager.



# What is disaster recovery? A personal perspective from local government

Kirsten Jenkins

Manager Health, Local Laws and Emergency Management

Maroondah City Council



## Where does Local Government fit?

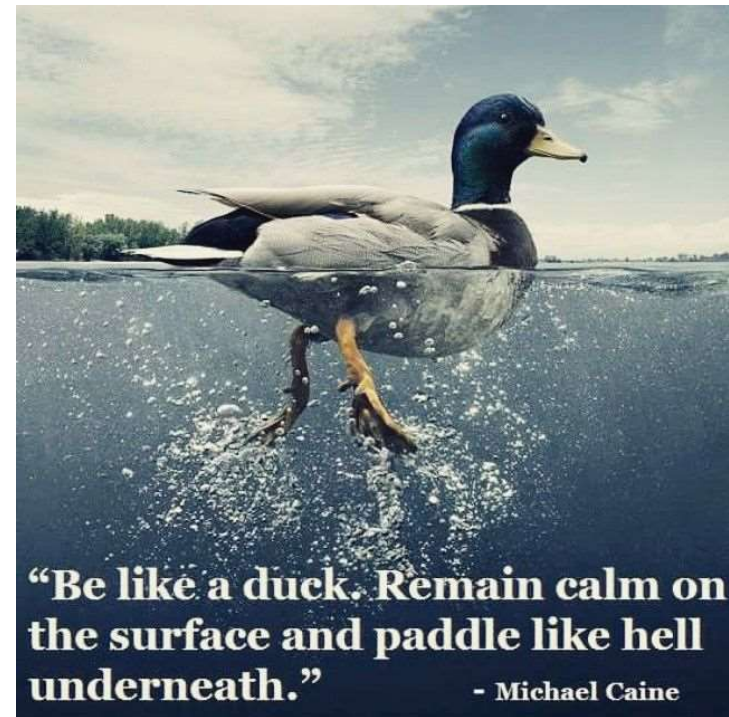
- › Closest level of government to the community – but an often complex relationship
- › In it for the long term
- › Roles and responsibilities in the EM arrangements
- › Vast and varied service delivery models



**Ah, you'll be wanting our red-tape department, third door on the left!**

## Who's in charge around here?

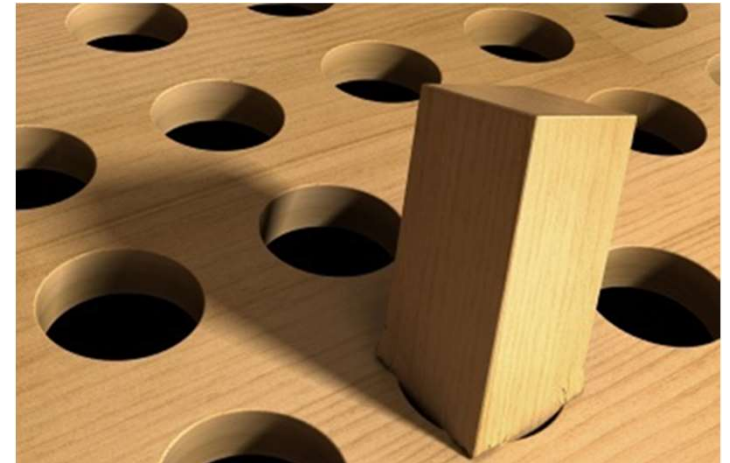
- › Everyone wants to help
- › Let go and delegate, bring in the cavalry
- › Strategic vs Operational – easier said than done
- › Leadership in crisis – community and workers



## The journey to 'recovery'

- › Who is the “community”?
- › Make connections early – build trust
- › Skills, expertise and networks of your colleagues
- › Expect the unexpected
- › Outcomes vs process
- › Who moved the goalposts?
- › What is a Community Recovery Plan?

“They want it completed by WHEN?”





## If I had the time.....

- › Understand the responsibilities of Council in state emergency management and recovery arrangements
- › Attend forums, regional meetings, training, scenario exercises
- › Build relationships with others in your role (neighbouring councils and agencies)
- › People's reactions to disasters
- › Recovery planning 101
  
- › EASY RIGHT?



Understanding  
disaster recovery

## In closing

- › Recognising signs of stress in yourself and colleagues
- › Valuing and acknowledging your own reactions and feelings to the disaster
- › Marathon not a sprint
- › Communication





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# Further resources: [knowledge.aidr.org.au/recovery](https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/recovery)

- Community Recovery Handbook
- Knowledge-into-Action briefs
- National Principles for Disaster Recovery
- National Monitoring and Evaluation Database for Disaster Recovery
- Practitioner resources
- Coming soon: Recover Matters webinar recordings

## **Mental health support**

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



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