

Australian Disaster Resilience  
Conference presents

# Knowledge Week

24 - 27 AUGUST 2020

[aidr.org.au/adrc](https://aidr.org.au/adrc)

#ADRC20



Australian Disaster Resilience Conference presents

○  
**KNOWLEDGE WEEK**

— DAY TWO —

# Local leadership



**2 - 4.30PM AEST | 25 AUGUST 2020**





# Steve Pascoe

Disaster Recovery Mentor

**Black Saturday to Black Summer: mentoring local leadership for recovery**



# Local leadership

**Black Saturday to Black Summer:  
mentoring local leadership in recovery**

Steve Pascoe  
Disaster Recovery  
Mentor



# Black Saturday 2009: Strathewen

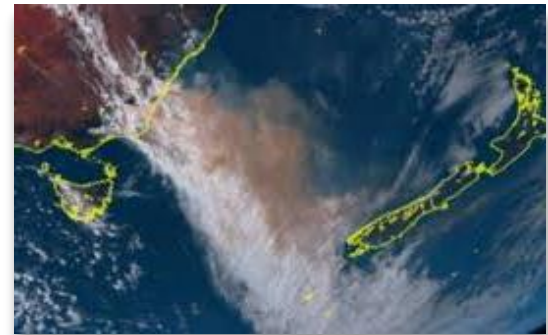
- Devastated the entire district
- 80 of 100 houses destroyed
- 27 people died
- Community led recovery
- 4 Recovery environments
  - Social
  - Natural
  - Economic
  - Built





# Black Summer 2019/20: Mallacoota

- 140 houses lost
- Abalone factory lost
- Town centre survived



# Mallacoota community led process

- Starting the conversation
- Engaging community leaders
- Developing community led recovery concept
- Checking in with established leaders
- Engaging the whole community in decision
- Electing a committee
- Strategic planning
  - immediate
  - medium term
  - long term





# How does community-led recovery process work best?

- Initiated and led by respected community leaders
- Community decision making
- Open and transparent
- Managing finances
- Extensive process of local engagement and participation
- An incorporated community association – why?
- Establishing legitimate community leadership
- Formal election of representatives – why?
- Support from government – *“How can we help?”*



# Observations and learnings on the community led process

- Why community led?
  - Affected community understand impacts and needs better than anyone
  - Local community know their strengths, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities
  - Will be there long before and long after agency staff and governments
  - Are invested in themselves
- Strengthens communities - builds resilience rather than dependence
- Engaging agencies and organisations rather than 'community engagement'
- Not linear

# The role of mentors

## Disaster Recovery Advisors and Mentors Australia

*“Others should not have to learn disaster recovery from scratch like we did.”*

- Independent, third party, experience and expertise
- Story telling
- Provide advice, guidance and support to local leaders
- Not limited by bureaucracy or local politics
- Liaison, advocacy and partnership building with local govt and agencies
- Supporting practitioners, community leaders, and communities



Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience

# Local leadership

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