



Australian Government
National Recovery and Resilience Agency



#ADRC22

Planning for natural disasters in NSW

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Overview

- Natural disasters in NSW
- NSW Planning Policy response
 - Facilitating emergency accommodation
 - Helping people to rebuild
 - Improving our strategic planning
- The Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards
- Going forward

Natural disasters in NSW



- The 2019/2020 bushfires killed 25 people, destroyed 2,335 houses and burnt over 5.4 hectares of land
- Multiple flooding events in northern NSW in 2022 damaged around 10,000 properties, leaving around 4,000 homes uninhabitable. Flooding in July 2022 in Sydney impacted a further 1860 buildings
- There has now been multiple years of major flooding across NSW
- Natural disasters in NSW are estimated to cost up to \$3.6 billion per year

NSW Planning Policy response

- NSW has undertaken multiple inquiries to inform our response to natural disasters
- Established the Housing Recovery Taskforce in 2022 to lead recovery efforts
- Our responses to recent disasters includes:
 - Facilitating the delivery of emergency accommodation
 - Supporting rebuilding efforts and encouraging 'Build Back Better'
 - Improving the consideration of natural hazards in strategic planning



Facilitating emergency accommodation

- We made changes to allow:
 - displaced people to stay in camping grounds for up to two years
 - a moveable dwelling to be installed on any land with council approval
 - shipping containers to be used as temporary businesses and storage
- The Housing Recovery Taskforce has worked closely with councils to select appropriate sites for temporary accommodation





Helping people to rebuild



- Waived the BASIX fee to rebuild disaster-affected homes
- Introduced a natural disaster clause
- Allowed outbuildings to be rebuilt without development approval or through a fast-tracked process
- Made demolition and non-structural repairs easier
- Introduced the Special Flood Consideration Clause through revised flood prone land package
- New Rural Boundary Clearing Code

Improving our strategic planning

- Using strategic planning to minimise risks
- NSW Flood Prone Land Package 2021, including:
 - a new planning circular on flooding
 - a new guideline: Considering Flooding in Land Use Planning
 - updated local planning direction
 - two new Local Environmental Plan Standard Instrument clauses
 - amendments to environmental planning instruments
- New NSW Bush Fire Policy
- The Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards

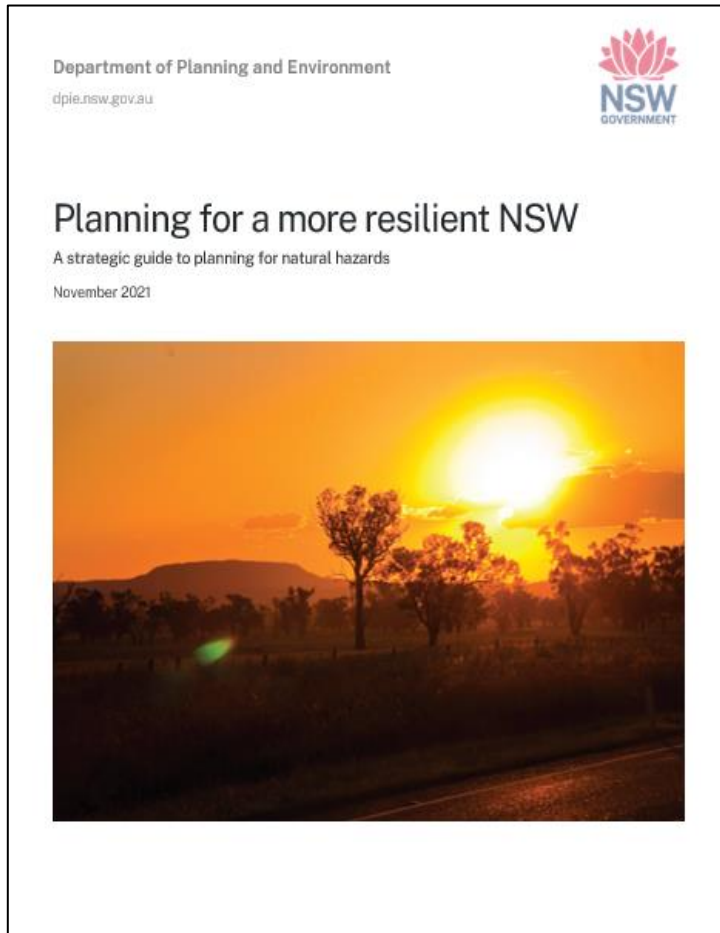


Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards

- Recommended in the NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038
- Introduces eight principles to embed natural hazards considerations into strategic planning activities
- Adopts an ‘all-hazards’ approach to ensure all relevant hazards are considered



Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards



Department of Planning and Environment

NSW GOVERNMENT

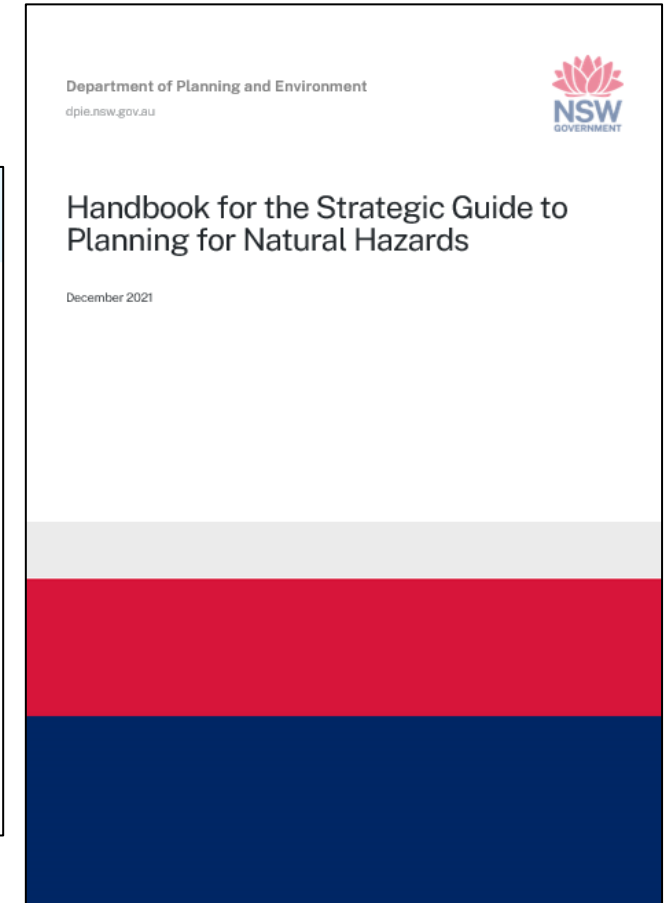
Strategic guide to planning for natural hazards – Resource Kit

The location of the relevant documents in the links provided were correct as of **7 July 2022**.

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Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards – Guiding Principles

1

Be strategic, consider natural hazard risk early

By considering natural hazard risk early, we can plan our communities to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk from natural hazards.

2

Protect vulnerable people & assets

Vulnerability changes over time - we need to consider the influence of trends such as population changes, fluctuations due to tourism, and climate change.

3

Adopt an “all-hazards” approach

NSW is faced with a diversity of natural hazards – consider each hazard in its own right, as well as the impact of coincident or cascading hazards.

4

Involve your community in conversations about risk and values

For hazard mitigation efforts to be successful, the public must understand the need to change where we build, what we build, and how we build and what's of value.



Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards – Guiding Principles

5

Plan for emergency response and evacuation

Consider disaster response and evacuation processes - nominate evacuation routes, identify recovery facilities, and take into account vulnerable populations.

6

Be information driven and evidence based

Increase the provision, use and sharing of natural hazard and settlement vulnerability mapping and scientific backing as part of strategic planning processes.

7

Plan to build and rebuild for the future with a changing climate

Provide for building and recovery in a way which enhances future resilience and does not simply replace what existed with the same thing.

8

Understand natural processes and work with them

Look for opportunities to utilise natural assets as a cost-effective mitigation strategy such as buffers provided by wetlands, dune systems and riparian areas.

Going forward



- Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation
- NSW Flood Inquiry recommendations