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THE AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE INDEX

A system for assessing the resilience of Australian
communities to natural hazards



An Australian Government Initiative



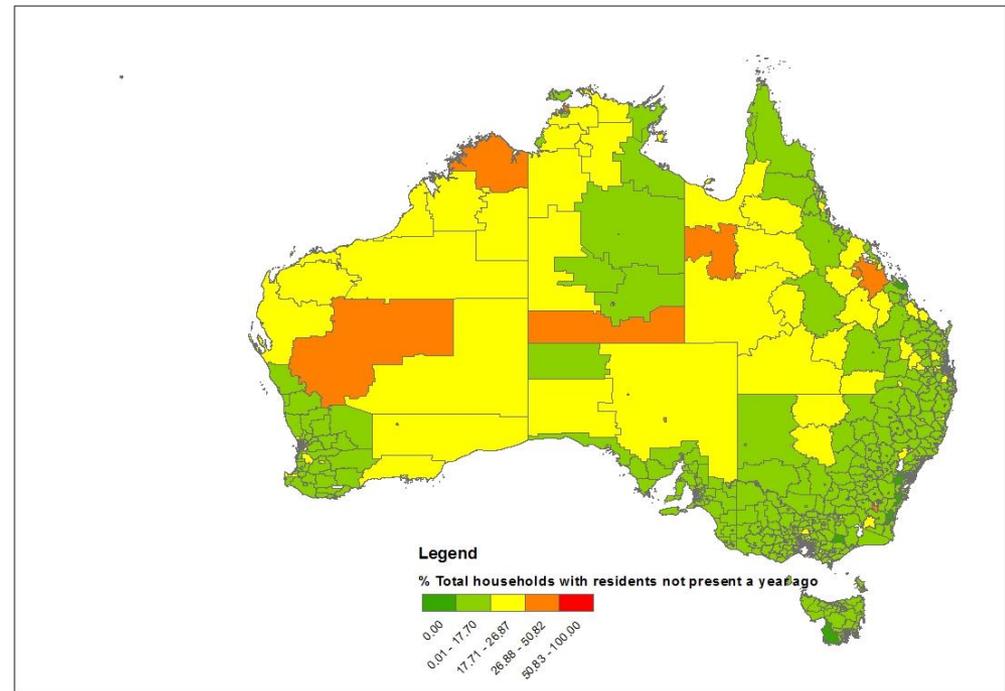
UNE
University of
New England

Project aim:

To develop an index that measures the current state of disaster resilience in Australian communities – the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (ANDRI)

Major output:

State of Disaster Resilience report



TODAY'S TALK

- 1) Conceptual boundaries for the assessment of disaster resilience
- 2) Progress on indicator themes
- 3) Designing the State of Disaster Resilience Report





The landscape of disaster resilience indicators in the USA

Susan L. Cutter¹

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Abstract The landscape of disaster resilience indicators is littered with wide range of tools, scorecards, indices that purport to measure disaster resilience in some manner. This paper examines the existing qualitative and quantitative approaches to resilience assessment in order to delineate common concepts and variables. Twenty seven different resilience assessment tools, indices, and scorecards were examined. Four different parameters were used to distinguish between them—focus (on assets baseline conditions); spatial orientation (local to global), methodology (top down or bottom up), and domain area (characteristics to capacities). There is no dominant approach across these characteristics. In a more detailed procedure, fourteen empirically based case studies were examined that had actually implemented one of the aforementioned tools, indices, or scorecards to look for overlaps in both concepts measured and variables. The most common elements in all the assessment approaches can be divided into attributes and assets (economic, social, environmental, infrastructure) and capacities (social capital, community functions, connectivity, and planning). The greatest variable overlap in the case studies is with specific measures of social capital based on religious affiliation and civic organizations, and for health access (measured by the number of physicians). Based on the analysis a core set of attributes/assets, capacities, and proxy measures are presented as a path forward, recognizing that new data may be required to adequately measure many of the dimensions of community disaster resilience.

Keywords Disaster resilience indicators · Measuring community resilience · USA

1 Introduction

While not a new concept, resilience has burst onto policy agendas in the last few years largely due to three interrelated events. First, a series of prominent disasters (Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, as well as the Great Eastern Japan, Christchurch and Nepal

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23,3

252

RESEARCH PAPER

Framing disaster resilience

The implications of the diverse conceptualisations of “bouncing back”

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Abstract

Purpose – To confront the increasingly devastating impacts of disasters and the challenges that climate change is posing to disaster risk management (DRM) there is an imperative to further develop DRM. The resilience approach is emerging as one way to do this, and in the last decade has been strongly introduced into the policy arena, although it is not new for DRM practitioners and researchers. Nevertheless, resilience is a highly contested issue, and there is no agreed definition of it, which has resulted in confusion for stakeholders when applying it to practice. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate how resilience is framed by researchers and DRM practitioners.

Design/methodology/approach – The analytical framework used was Hajer’s “social-interactive discourse theory”, combined with analysis of government documents, in-depth interviews with practitioners and observation of field and practices within the context of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program in Queensland, Australia.

Findings – One of the key findings is that the idea of “bouncing back” is central to the resilience discourse but different interpretations of this idea results in real-world implications. Three different ways (storylines) in which practitioners construct the meaning of disaster resilience emerge from this study. Importantly the divergences between these storylines reveal possibilities for reframing to occur and these could lead to different policy options and practices.

Originality/value – The results presented in this paper offer empirical evidence on how resilience is understood on the ground, contributing to extending resilience theory and informing DRM and resilience practice.

Keywords Climate change, Disasters, Disaster risk management, Resilience, Framing, “Bounce back”

Paper type Research paper

The authors thank “Becas Bicentenario” from the Government of Chile, the University of Chile, the University of Melbourne and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia, for funding the present research. This publication also received the support of and is a contribution to the Center of Resilience and Climate Research (CR)², FONDAP #1511009. The authors also thank the Department of Community Safety, Queensland and the case study respondents, for their generosity and willingness to participate.



PAPER - CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARIES OF THE INDEX

General properties of disaster resilience assessment	Properties of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (ANDRI)
Assessment purpose	
Top-down or bottom-up assessment	
Assessment scale	
Conceptual framework	
Structural design	
Indicator selection	
Data analysis and index computation	
Reporting and interpretation	

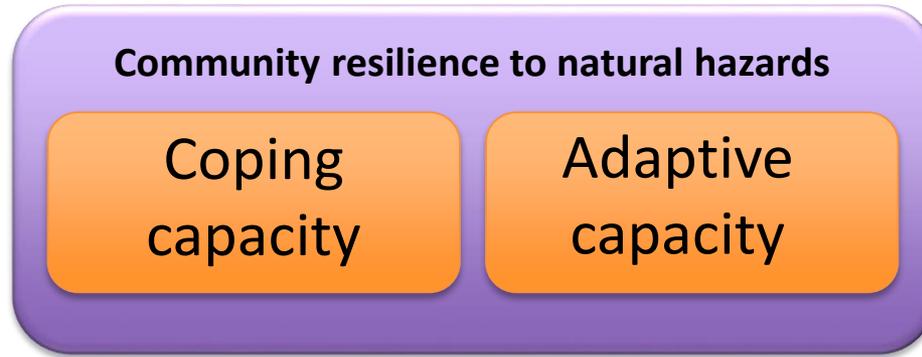
PAPER - CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARIES OF THE INDEX

General properties of disaster resilience assessment	Properties of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (ANDRI)
Assessment purpose	Audit at one point in time
Top-down or bottom-up assessment	Top-down assessment
Assessment scale	National scale
Conceptual framework	Capacities approach
Structural design	Hierarchical
Indicator selection	
Data analysis and index computation	
Reporting and interpretation	

PAPER - CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARIES OF THE INDEX

General properties of disaster resilience assessment	Properties of the Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (ANDRI)
Assessment purpose	Audit at one point in time
Top-down or bottom-up assessment	Top-down assessment
Assessment scale	National scale
Conceptual framework	Capacities approach
Structural design	Hierarchical
Indicator selection	Themes of adaptive and coping capacity Data availability at national scale
Data analysis and index computation	Easily interpreted index Sensitivity and uncertainty
Reporting and interpretation	State of Disaster Resilience Report End-user operability

COPING AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES



The means by which people or organizations use available resources and abilities to face adverse consequences that could lead to a disaster (UNISDR 2004)

Factors influencing the ability to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard event

The arrangements and processes that enable adjustment through learning, adaptation and transformation

The facilitation of adaptation by governance, institutional, management and social arrangements and processes.

COPING CAPACITY

Social capital

Social and demographic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events

Economic capital

Economic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events

Infrastructure and planning

Preparation for natural hazard events using strategies of mitigation or planning

Emergency services

The presence, capability and resourcing of emergency services, warning systems and disaster response plans

Community capital

The cohesion and connectedness of the community

Information and engagement

Availability of natural hazard information, community engagement and partnerships to encourage risk awareness

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

Governance, policy and leadership

Organizational enablers of learning, adaptation and transformation

Community and social engagement

Social enablers of learning, adaptation and transformation

DATA COLLECTION

Social capital

Education, Age, Income, Employment, Gender, Household structure, Migration, English language proficiency

Economic capital

Infrastructure and planning

Emergency services

Community capital

Information and engagement

Governance, policy and leadership

Community and social engagement



DATA COLLECTION

Need to collect the full data set before index computation

Social capital

Economic capital

Infrastructure and planning

Emergency services

Community capital

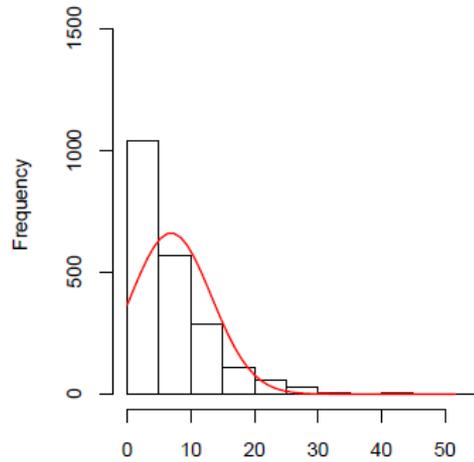
Information and engagement

Governance, policy and leadership

Community and social engagement

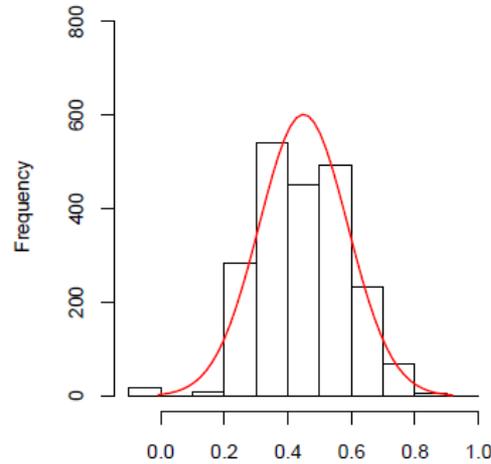


Raw distribution



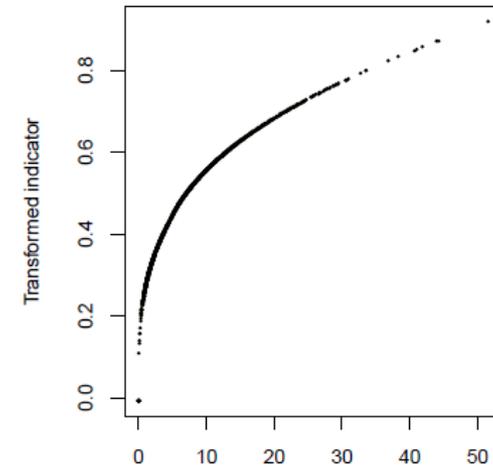
% population arrived 2001 onwards

Transformed distribution

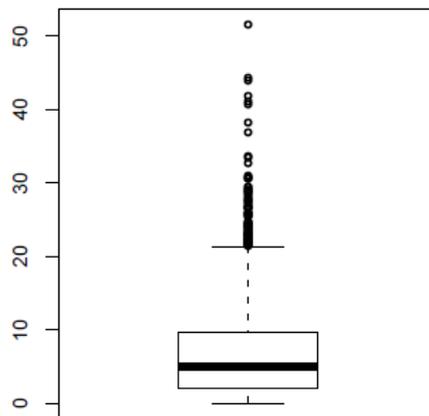


% population arrived 2001 onwards (transformed)

Transformation relationship

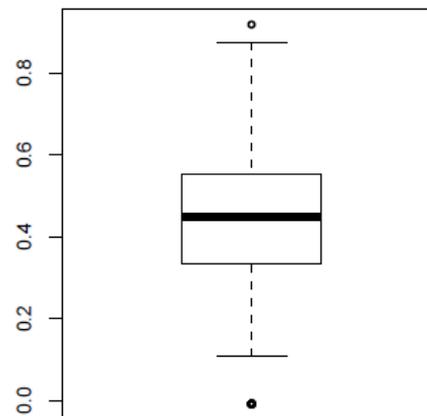


Raw distribution



% population arrived 2001 onwards

Transformed distribution



% population arrived 2001 onwards

TRANSFORMATION DETAILS

Reversed

Skewness:

Power transform: 0.56

Pre-transform skewness: 1.8

Post-transform skewness: 0.0

Kurtosis:

Power d-m: 0.81

Pre-transform kurtosis: 4.9

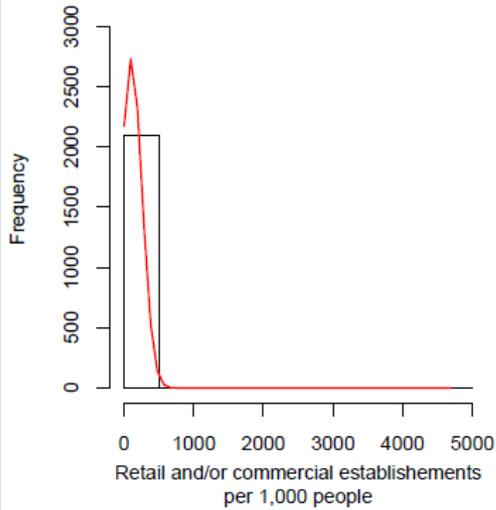
Post-transform kurtosis: 0.0

Outliers:

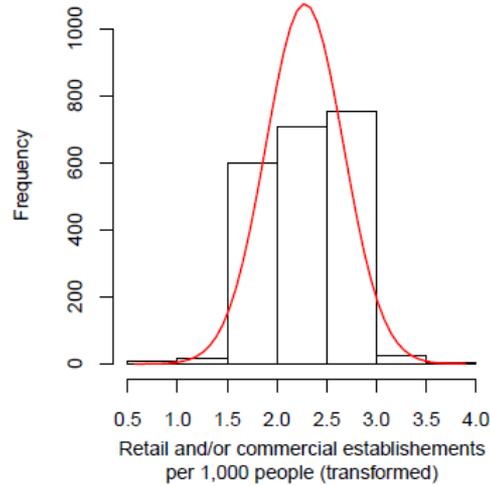
Pre-transform outlier count: 83

Post-transform outlier count: 19

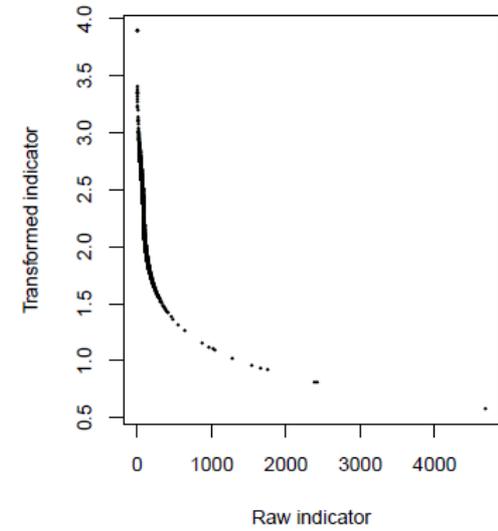
Raw distribution



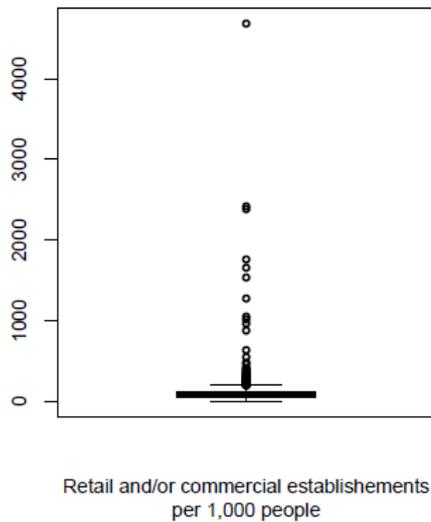
Transformed distribution



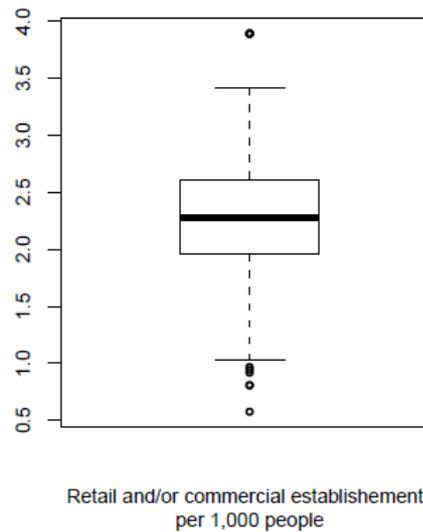
Transformation relationship



Raw distribution



Transformed distribution



TRANSFORMATION DETAILS

Unreversed

Skewness:

Power transform: 0.19

Pre-transform skewness: 18.0

Post-transform skewness: -0.0

Kurtosis:

Power d-m: 0.59

Pre-transform kurtosis: 441.1

Post-transform kurtosis: 0.0

Outliers:

Pre-transform outlier count: 88

Post-transform outlier count: 10

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Social capital

Social and demographic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Immigration
- 2) Internal migration
- 3) Language proficiency
- 4) Need for assistance
- 5) Family composition
- 6) Household composition
- 7) Sex
- 8) Age
- 9) Education
- 10) Employment & Occupation



Completeness of data set



None

Data issues

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Economic capital

Economic factors that influence ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazard events

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Home and car ownership
- 2) Income
- 3) Employment
- 4) Economy



Completeness of data set



None

Data issues

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Infrastructure and planning

Preparation for natural hazard events using strategies of mitigation or planning

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Dwelling type
- 2) Building codes
- 3) State and local emergency planning
- 4) Local land use planning for hazards



Completeness of data set



Data issues

- Scoring system for assessing emergency and land use planning capacity

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Emergency services

The presence, capability and resourcing of emergency services, warning systems and disaster response plans

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Health response workforce
- 2) Emergency response workforce
- 3) Remoteness



Completeness of data set



Data issues

- Need regional numbers for:
 - Police, fire and ambulance personnel
 - SES/Fire Agency – staff & volunteers



OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Community capital

The cohesion and
connectedness of the
community

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Household support
- 2) Access to services
- 3) Wellbeing
- 4) Unemployment
- 5) Volunteering
- 6) Place attachment
- 7) Crime and safety



Completeness of data set



- None

Data issues

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Information and engagement

Availability of natural hazard information, community engagement and partnerships to encourage risk awareness

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Community engagement and hazard education
- 2) Access to telecommunications



Completeness of data set



Data issues

- Obtaining comparable information about community engagement variables across States



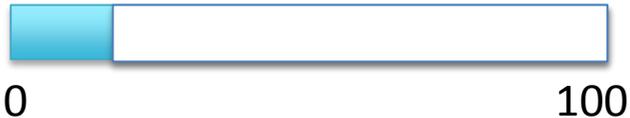
OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Governance, policy and leadership

Organizational enablers of learning, adaptation and transformation

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Institutional character
- 2) Policy and legislation
- 3) Research and development



Completeness of data set



- None

Data issues

OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Governance, policy and leadership

Organizational enablers of learning, adaptation and transformation



Joyeeta Gupta et al.

The adaptive capacity wheel. A method to assess the inherent characteristics of institutions to enable the adaptive capacity of society. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 2010

Dimension	Indicators
Institutional character	Capacity for institutional learning Leadership Resource levels Capacity for institutional innovation
Policy and legislation	Age of legislation and policy Uptake of resilience strategic directions
Research and development	Expenditure on research and development



OVERVIEW OF THEMES

Community and social engagement

Social enablers of learning, adaptation and transformation

Indicator dimensions

- 1) Skills for learning
- 2) Social engagement



Completeness of data set



Data issues

- Coverage of social engagement data in urban areas

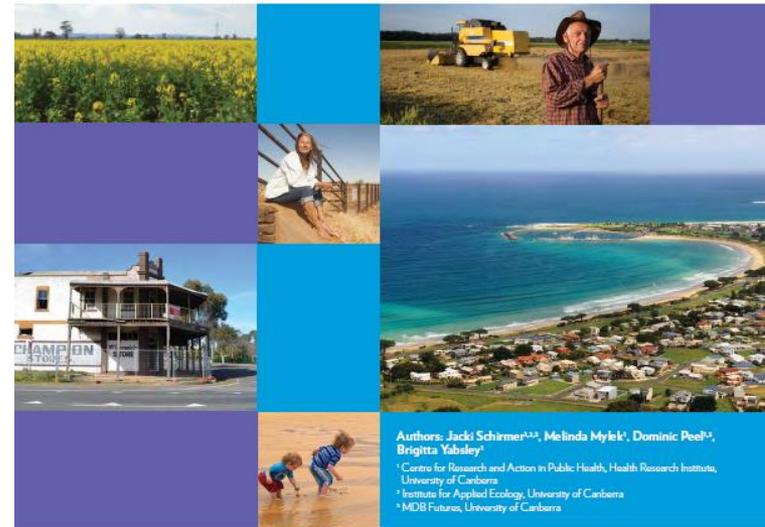
DESIGNING THE STATE OF DISASTER RESILIENCE REPORT



**WorldRiskReport
2014**

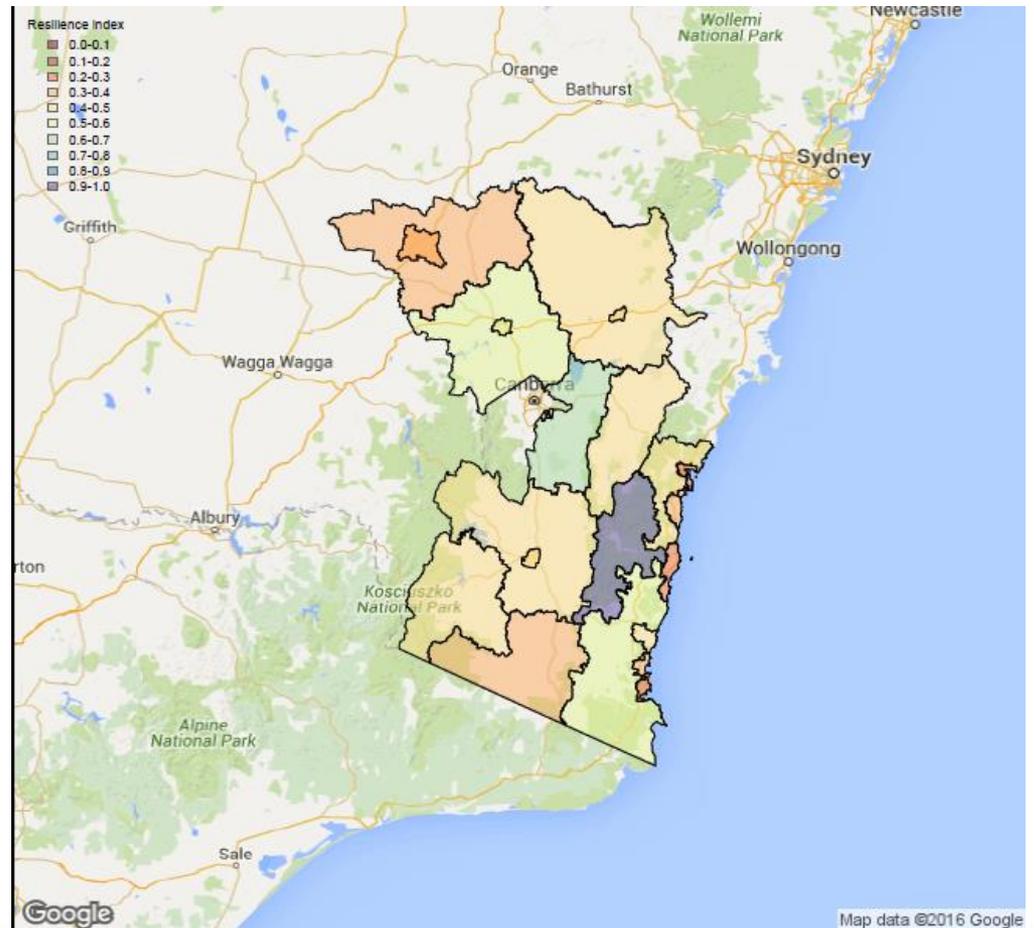
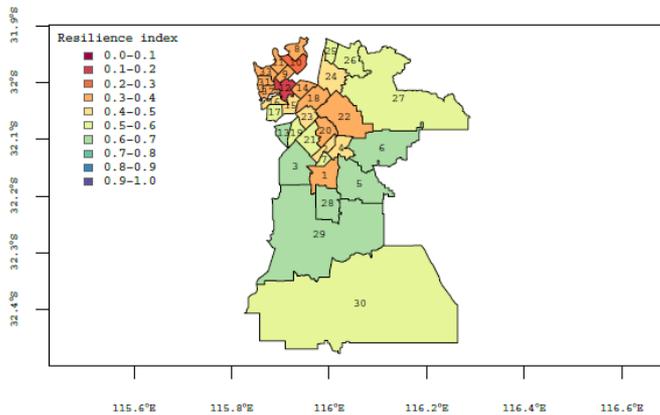
PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THE 2014 REGIONAL WELLBEING SURVEY

JUNE 2015



DESIGNING THE STATE OF DISASTER RESILIENCE REPORT

Perth - South East



Key	SA2	ADPR	Family Income (\$/wk)	% ranking	% >75 Yrs	% no English	EDI
1	Armadale - Wungong - Brookdale	0.33	1124	36.08	6.81	1.39	0.88
2	Camillo - Champion Lakes	0.43	1300	25.83	3.52	2.01	0.87
3	Forrestdale - Harrisdale - Piara Waters	0.66	2176	13.21	0.72	1.68	0.88
4	Kilsnooth	0.45	1402	26.16	6.58	1.24	0.93
5	Mount Naurua - Mount Richon - Bedforddale	0.66	1876	8.86	5.12	0.37	0.91
6	Roleystone	0.69	1976	9.55	3.35	0.42	0.91
7	Seville Grove	0.54	1545	23.47	1.81	1.21	0.87
8	Belmont - Ascot - Redcliffe	0.32	1699	37.92	6.74	3.33	0.84
9	East Victoria Park - Carlisle	0.34	1827	42.96	5.28	3.85	0.87
10	Rivervale - Kewdale - Cloverdale	0.28	1473	40.24	6.99	4.65	0.87
11	Victoria Park - Iathlain - Burswood	0.34	1943	47.99	4.23	4.28	0.84
12	Bentley - Wilson - St James	0.19	1301	47.85	11.45	5.97	0.93
13	Canning Vale - West	0.63	2154	12.34	2.07	3.29	0.93
14	Canning Vale - Queens Park	0.34	1468	40.66	4.01	7.71	0.92
15	Parkwood - Ferndale - Lynwood	0.45	1566	21.38	6.12	4.50	0.95
16	Riverton - Shelley - Rossmoyns	0.40	1917	25.00	8.32	3.00	0.91
17	Willletton	0.53	1977	17.96	4.16	3.45	0.93
18	Beckenham - Kenwick - Langford	0.39	1317	28.13	3.38	7.01	0.92
19	Canning Vale - East	0.59	2060	16.25	1.81	4.06	0.93
20	Gosnells	0.33	1271	29.47	7.54	2.68	0.89
21	Huntingdale - Southern River	0.58	1832	18.02	1.74	2.37	0.90
22	Maddington - Orange Grove - Martin	0.26	1204	22.66	6.10	4.05	0.87
23	Thornton	0.48	1589	19.87	4.05	3.99	0.92
24	Forrestfield - Wattle Grove	0.48	1671	20.03	4.71	1.61	0.85
25	High Wycombe	0.53	1670	19.17	3.95	0.84	0.83
26	Kalamunda - Maida Vale - Gooseberry Hill	0.58	1922	12.18	7.65	0.54	0.91
27	Leemurdie - Bickley - Carmel	0.56	1913	12.38	6.69	0.80	0.89
28	Byford	0.61	1797	15.37	3.07	0.43	0.84
29	Mundijong	0.63	1808	12.79	2.48	0.40	0.81
30	Serpentine - Jarrabdale	0.54	1587	15.82	3.84	0.48	0.74
31	Como	0.32	2039	42.99	8.23	1.98	0.82
32	Manning - Waterford	0.37	2132	29.60	8.06	3.20	0.86
33	South Perth - Kensington	0.39	2527	42.30	5.12	2.13	0.75

PEOPLE

Phil Morley

Graham Marshall

Judith McNeill

Richard Stayner

Peter Hastings

Gwynne Brennan, CFA Vic

Sandra Barber, Fire Tas

Trent Curtin, Vic MFESB

Paul Fletcher, SA MFB

Colleen Ridge, SES Tas

Holly Foster, EM Vic

Chris Lewis, NSW FB

Melissa Parsons

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Ian Reeve

Martin Thoms

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Raelene Thompson, AEMI

John Richardson, Red Cross

Tamara Beckett, DEPI Vic