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National Emergency Management Agency

# Anticipate **Manage** Reduce

National Emergency Management Agency Coordinator General

2 May 2023

Image: BOM



The last time we met I posed to you three questions...



1. Do we agree that Australia has the capability to deliver national disaster response, relief and recovery, and facilitate community-led recovery?



2. Is community-led recovery realistic?



3. How do we balance short-term response and recovery with long-term risk reduction and resilience investment?



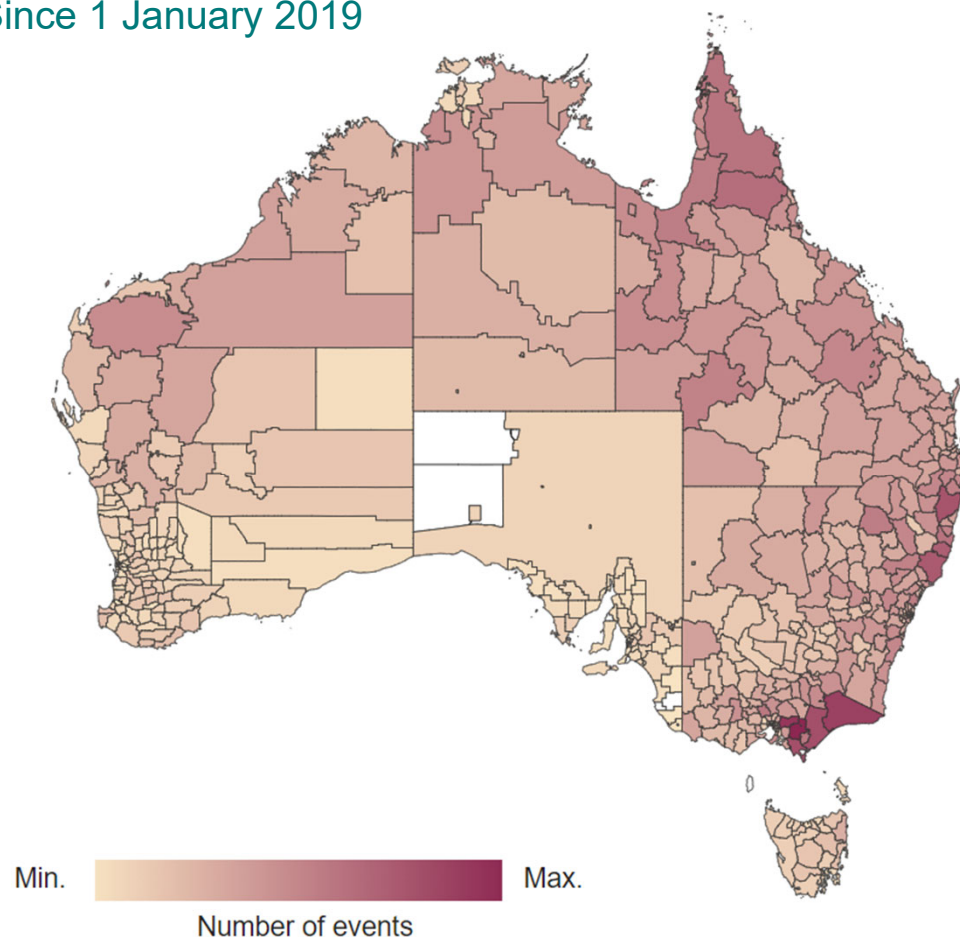
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Images: AAP 2

# Australia's context – cascading, compounding & complex disasters

Since 1 January 2019



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**434** Local Government Areas across Australia activated

**200** disaster events have impacted Australia

**> \$12.2 billion** in insurance losses

**> \$3.5 billion** in payments to individuals

**> 24,000** homes damaged since 2022

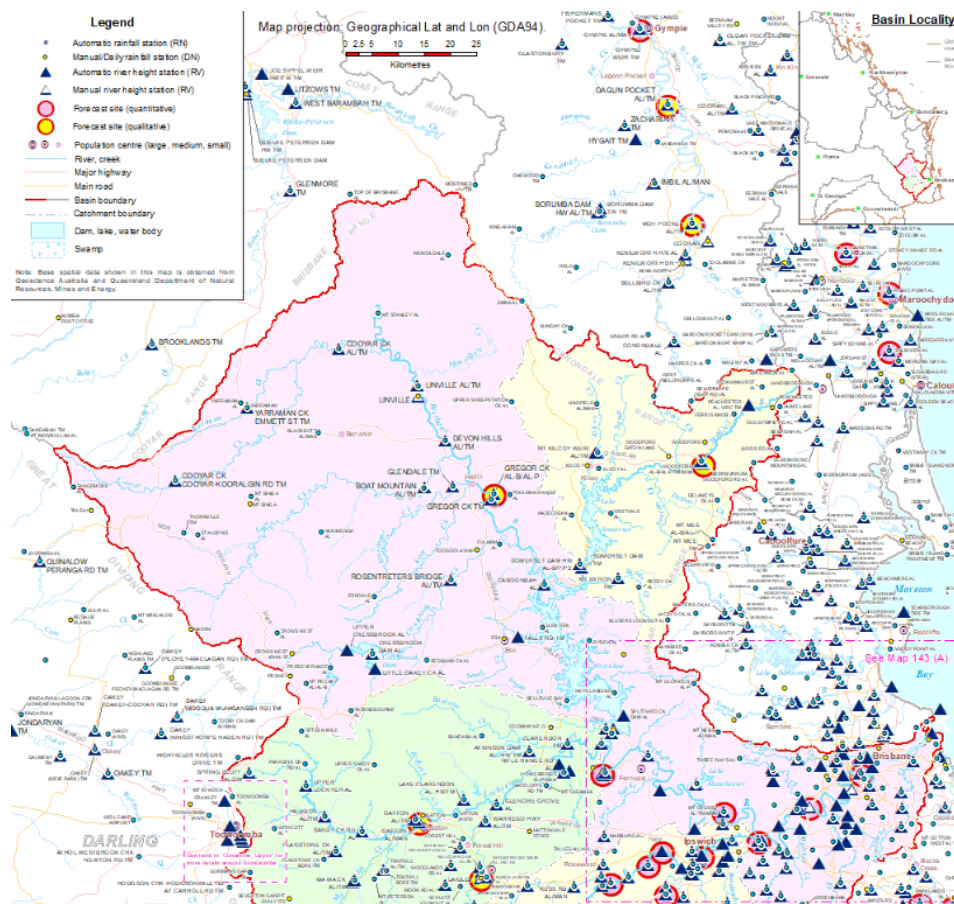
**> \$19.3 billion** national spend on recovery & reconstruction

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## The end of the 2022 – 23 high risk weather season

## Communities are not adequately prepared for the future

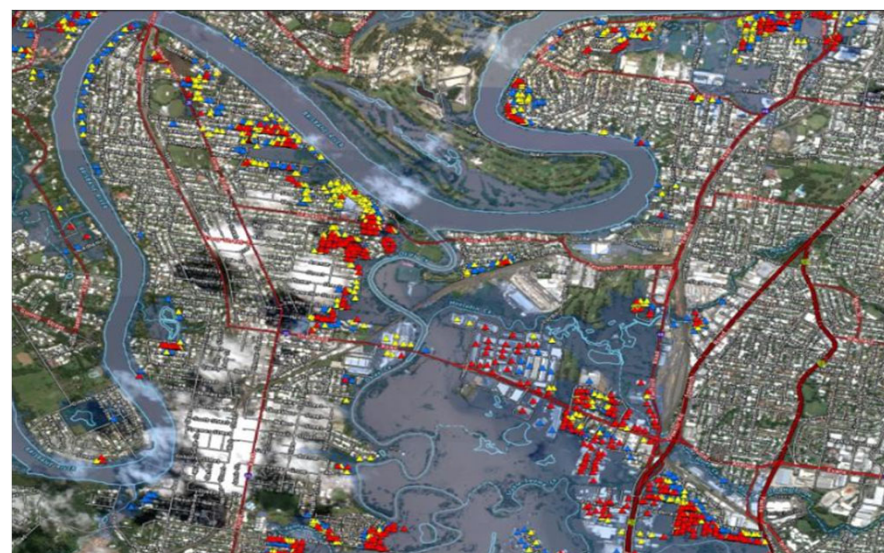


*Rain River and Camera.*

*Automatic rainfall gauge.*

Rain and river height gauge with a traffic camera.

Manual river height gauge.



# Snapshot: Queensland 2022

↑↓ Arrows indicate a significant increase/decrease since 2020

## PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD OF RISK EVENTS



## UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE

Understanding of potential impacts of disaster risks

7.49

0-10 Very good



Self-assessed level of preparedness

6.50

0-10 Very prepared



Confidence in adequacy of insurance (average across four disasters)

7.12

0-10 Very confident



## DRIVERS, BARRIERS AND MOTIVATORS TO PLANNING

### KEY DRIVERS TO PREPARING PREVIOUSLY

Past disaster experience	44%↑
Habit	21%
Been caught in the past unprepared - don't want this to happen again	12%↑
Seeing other people on television or in other communities impacted by disasters	12%

### KEY MOTIVATORS TO PREPARING IN THE FUTURE

Actual or impending disaster	39%↓
Information on how to prepare	26%
Reminders/incentives to prepare	21%↑

### KEY BARRIERS TO PREPARING

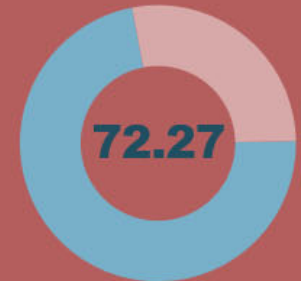
Not top of mind	38%↓
Perceived low risk	40%
Would have time to prepare if something occurred	11%↑

## MOST APPEALING CHANNELS FOR PREPARATION INFORMATION

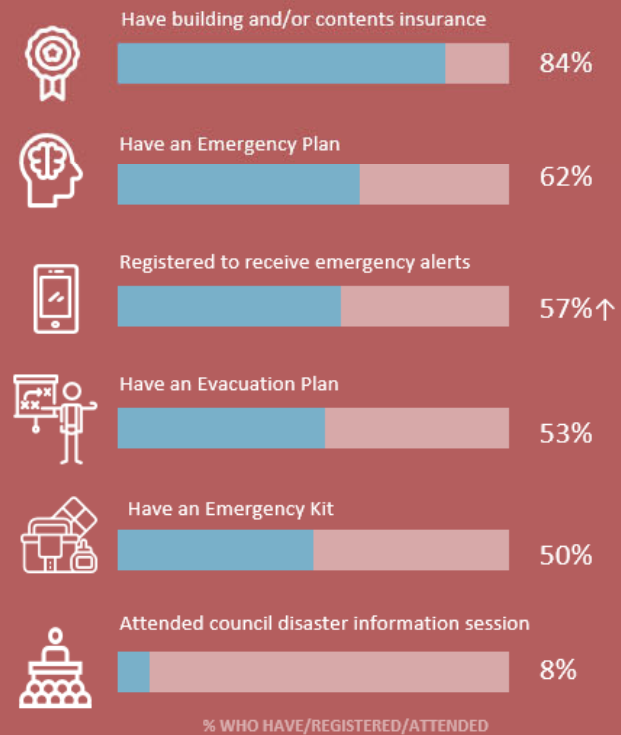


## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INDEX - 2022

Scale: 0-100 where 100 is the most prepared



## DISASTER PREPARATION BEHAVIOUR





## The end of the 2022 – 23 high risk weather season

We don't have a nationally consistent approach to emergency management



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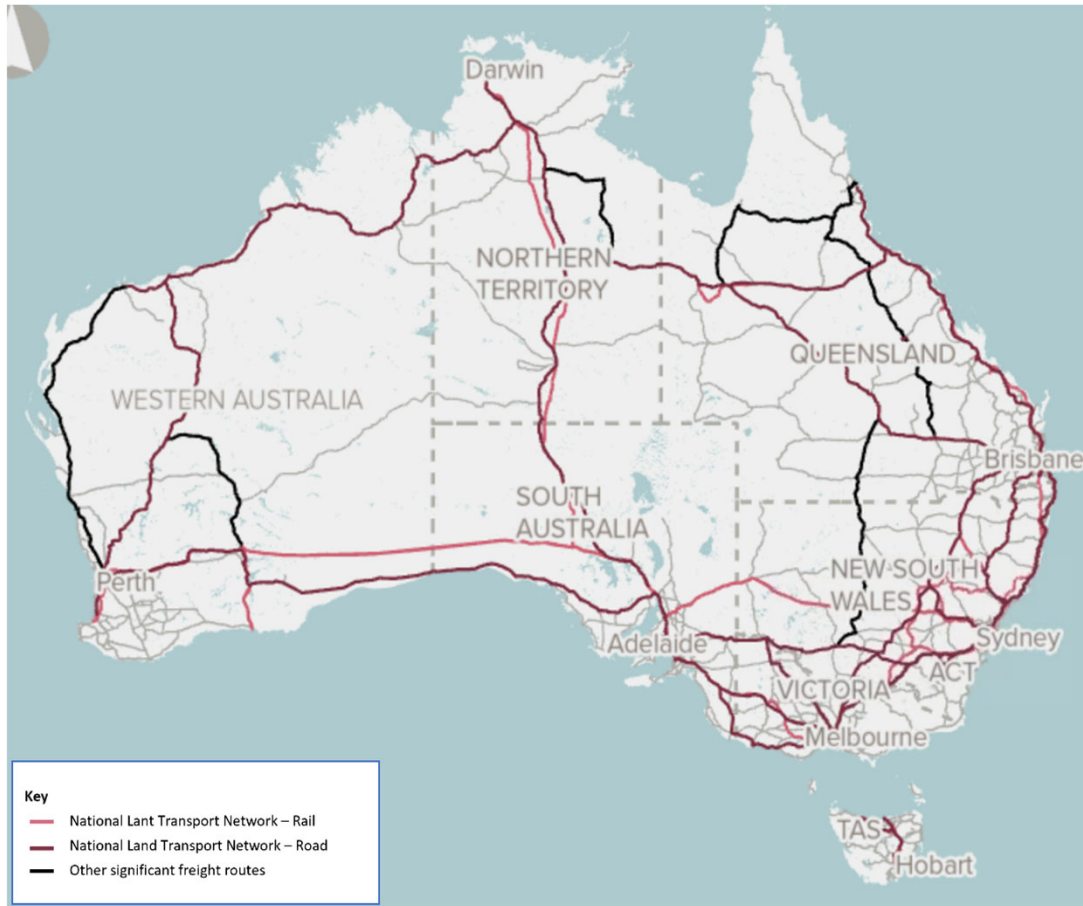
Image credit: ABC, The Guardian and AAP

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## National supply chain impacts

Transport infrastructure is under pressure from compounding events



Credit: Infrastructure Australia



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Flood-affected Rail Network (SA)



Road work in Cloncurry following damage (Qld)



Flood damage to Comabella Causeway (NSW)

Credit: ABC Western Plains: Olivia Ralph



2019 Queensland Monsoon Trough damage



Flood damage to Midland Highway damage (Vic)

Credit: Brendan McCarthy/AAP



Fitzroy Crossing Bridge (WA)

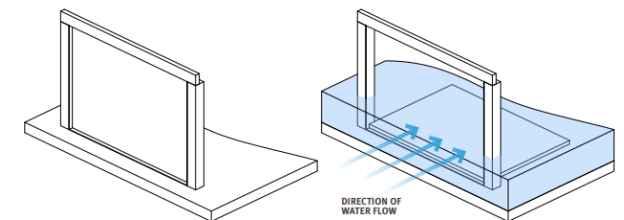
Credit: Twitter / Callum Lamond



Salvaging of bushfire timber sign (Vic)



# Betterment of the Gayndah Water Supply Intake Station on the Burnett River



Gayndah Water Supply Intake	
Restoration	\$2,706,340
Betterment	\$843,713
Council contribution	\$58,000
Avoided cost over 2 events	\$5,406,720





## Actions we're taking



Second National Action Plan



Funding Review



Governance Review



Workforce Capability



Hazard Insurance Partnership



Disaster Ready Fund



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The last time we met I posed to you three questions...

1. How do we prepare communities to adequately respond to hazards and disaster events when they don't know what's coming, don't understand their risk, and aren't alerted early enough?
2. How do we develop a nationally-consistent approach to common emergency management challenges across the states and territories?
3. How do we catalyse communities to put climate and sustainable development at the centre of their actions?



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