



IMPLEMENTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY READINESS TOOL

Predictions of increased severity and frequency of weather events inclusive of coastal erosion, extreme flooding, storms and bushfires are well known across NSW.

Communities, emergency services and importantly local government are looking for assurance that council's have the capacity, capability and preparedness to mitigate the impact of these events on their communities, their assets and their ability to deliver services.

More than ever, there is a need to understand and recognise the roles and responsibilities of local council in prevention and preparing for emergencies with particular emphasis on location based hazards and risks.

The **Emergency Management Health Check** will allow councils, LEMCs, regions and government representatives to:

- Identify areas for improvement in Council's resilience and readiness capability;
- Build a case for state-level funding to address emergency management needs;
- Ensure integration between local emergency planning, risk management and IP&R;
- Provide a platform to identify best practice in emergency management amongst councils and regions to leverage learnings across the State.



ONLINE

Simple web-based tool delivered via email



INTEGRATED

Aligned to existing government frameworks



REPORTING

Analysis of council and regional readiness



TRAINING

Guidance on how to improve resilience



WHY IS THIS CRITICAL FOR COUNCILS?

The Emergency Management Health Check enables assurance and confidence that each respective council's capacity and capability *matches* the identified risks, hazards, assumed consequences and community and emergency services expectations.

It will support the local emergency management planning required to inform the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and the Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP).

It will build resilience both within council and the assets it manages.

It will enable the identification and reduction of duplication of resourcing, time and effort to ensure all council strategies and programs are fit for purpose.

The Health Check can also inform Council's obligations within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Legislation including the development and submission of a Community Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Strategy.

Being able to produce evidence of Council's commitment to Emergency Risk Management (ERM) via the reports produced by the Health Check could support future grant funding for the following initiatives;

-  Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)
-  Bush Fire Risk Management Grant Scheme (BFRMGS)
-  Floodplain Risk Management Grant Scheme (FPRMGS)
-  Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP)

HOW WILL IT BE DELIVERED?

The Health Check will be accessible to all Councils in NSW via a secure, web-based platform.

It will comprise a series of questions to which each Council can respond based on their varying levels of risk, preparedness, investment and resources with regards to Emergency Management in their local area.

Analysis of Council responses will be delivered via a report to each Council to allow action and mitigation plans to be developed and implemented.

Future versions of the tool may also allow aggregation of data across regions and the state to identify both areas of better practice and where assistance or resources may be required to improve readiness.

Accompanying the Health Check will be a series of resources and guidelines to assist local government understand how they can use the results in the report to close the gaps in their preparedness or how to leverage their maturity to assist other council groups.

The Health Check and the Emergency Management Readiness Resource Pack will be available to NSW Councils in Late 2016.

For more information please contact Belinda Atkins from SCCG: (02) 9246 7326.



This project is funded under the joint State/Commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience Program.