ARISE Case Studies in Disaster Risk Management

AECOM

Tasmania

Disaster Planning and Recovery for Tasmanian Businesses - Delivery of Materials and Training

AECOM was engaged by the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet Climate Change Office (TCCO) to develop a suite of online and printable resources to help Tasmanian businesses across a range of sectors develop practical and implementable strategies to prepare their business for disasters. The resources, when combined, can form a comprehensive emergency management plan for the business, and can be used as individual resources, depending on the business' needs.

RISK	ACTION	IMPACT	OUTPUT
Recent fire and flood events in Tasmania have had long lasting and profound effects on small and medium sized businesses, which dominate the Tasmanian economy. Impacts on businesses (and local communities) are reduced through helping them to understand the hazards they face and to undertake business continuity and emergency management planning. Increased resilience of local businesses improves their ability to bounce back after a disaster event, which directly improves community recovery outcomes. The Insurance Council of Australia estimated damage of the 2013 Tasmanian fires at $89M, and for Dunalley, east of Hobart, more than half of the town's buildings and a primary school were destroyed	Through desktop review and stakeholder engagement a suite of resources was developed for Tasmanian businesses (across a range of sectors) to provide practical and implementable strategies to avoid impacts and assist businesses to recover from disaster events more swiftly. The four key project stages were: 1. Research and review of Natural hazards affecting Tasmanian businesses and current procedures, advice and guidance 2. Drafting of resources 3. Finalisation and publication of resources; and 4. Workshops and presentation of resources. These resources empower businesses to have strategies that are tailored to their business and allow them to respond to 'all hazards.'	Once businesses are aware of the risks they face from natural hazards and how these risks may impact their core functions, they can take steps to plan and prepare to ensure effective response and recovery, should a disaster occur. The resources developed can be combined to form a comprehensive emergency management plan, support business continuity planning and be used as individual resources, depending on the business' needs. Investment in preparation can reduce the cost and impacts of a disaster event.	Resources included a Business Continuity Plan Template, fact sheets and checklists. The Business Continuity Plan template encompasses preparation, response and recovery and its four sections align with Australian Disaster Resilience key messaging. Fact sheets, checklists and contact lists accompany each section as stand-alone documents. Two workshops brought together Government and industry stakeholders to assist take up. Materials include: • Know your disaster risk • Insurance • Get ready template • Hazard preparation checklists for fire, flood, storm, earthquake, heatwave, and pandemic • Tourism specific materials • Recovery The materials are live on the Business Tasmania website at https://www.business.tas.gov.au/preparing for disasters

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Lessons Learned	Business need proactive guidance and support to navigate and complete the templates; primary producers in particular. Cooperation between government and the private sector is required to support businesses to use the materials. Within the private sector, industry groups and peak bodies are central to support resilience planning, including opportunities to work with the private sector (e.g. insurers) to promote the materials. The importance of 'community-led' response during disasters was critical to recovery.

BUSINESS CASE

Immediate benefits for small businesses that apply the tools are raised awareness of the disaster risks they face and the actions they are able to take to reduce the risks to their business continuity. For AECOM, this project builds our understanding of the challenges facing different sectors operating in various disaster risk and climate hazard areas.

We brought our understanding of disaster risk reduction to current emergency management and business continuity planning to build awareness and improve local responses. Improved preparedness is likely to mitigate impacts on supply lines, clients and other stakeholders, of benefit to both AECOM and locally. This project strengthens AECOMs resilience understanding and project delivery experience.

REPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The materials have direct relevance for business in other jurisdictions.
Further improvements could consider continual review and refinement as suggested by user groups.
The Business Resilience Workshops also yielded a number of suggested actions for further consideration. These include:
•The development of multi-media tools (e.g. YouTube videos of key community and industry spokespeople
•Working closely with State Growth to provide information sessions for local government on the tools and their role within the broader picture of economic recovery
•Joint Council and industry workshops to undertake resilience planning with specific industry groups.
•Alignment with agencies such as the Tasmanian Fire Service.

How does the project support the implementation of the Sendai Framework targets?

| 1 | Reduce disaster mortality by 2030 | X | Tasmania is exposed to fire and flood events regularly. There are a large number of small and dispersed settlements with small family run businesses and primary producers. Improving community / business led responses assists in disaster risk reduction and assists to build the resilience of local communities.

This initiative directly supports this approach with improved preparation and planning for a disaster situation also reducing the cost of damage and assists to protect life and property. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Reduce number of affected people by 2030 | X | |
| 3 | Reduce economic loss by 2030 | X | |
| 4 | Reduce infrastructure damage and disruption of services by 2030 | X | |
| 5 | Increase countries with DRR national/ local strategies by 2020 | | |
| 6 | Enhance international cooperation to developing countries | | |
| 7 | Increase the availability of and access to EWS* and DR information to people by 2030 | X | |

How does the project contribute to the ARISE Themes?

| 1 | Disaster Risk Management Strategies | X | Proper disaster risk planning by small and large businesses improves business continuity.

As well as being an effective strategy to plan for and respond to a disaster event and to reduce the cost and interruption for business, minimizing business disruption can assist in community recovery.

The materials prepared by the Tasmanian government and the active support in their application will in time assist to reduce harm and costs and build resilience at a community, business and individual scale. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Investment metrics | | |
| 3 | Benchmarking and Standards | X | |
| 4 | Education and Training | X | |
| 5 | Legal and Regulatory | | |
| 6 | Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience | X | |
| 7 | Insurance | X | |

For More Information

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