



Easy English information from Central Coast Council

Title: Draft Natural Disaster Resilience Strategy

	About this Easy English document We have written this information in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas. In this document, we means Central Coast Council. We call Central Coast Council, Council.
	Hard words This document has some hard words. The hard words are in blue. We explain what the hard words mean.
	You can get help to read this document You can ask someone to help you read this document. You can ask a family member, friend, carer, support worker or advocate. They can help you read this information, understand it, ask questions and tell Council what you think.
	Contact Council For more information contact: Breanna Pollock Role: Emergency Management Coordinator Email: Breanna.Pollock@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au OR Central Coast Council Phone: 02 4306 7900 Email: ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au Website: www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au You can also use the National Relay Service. TTY: 133 677 Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727



What is this document about?

This document is about the Draft Natural Disaster Resilience Strategy.

We call it the Strategy.

A **strategy** is a plan.

The Strategy explains how Council wants to help the Central Coast be safer and more prepared for natural disasters.

The Strategy is a **draft**.

A draft is not final.

Council wants to know what the community thinks before the Strategy is finished.

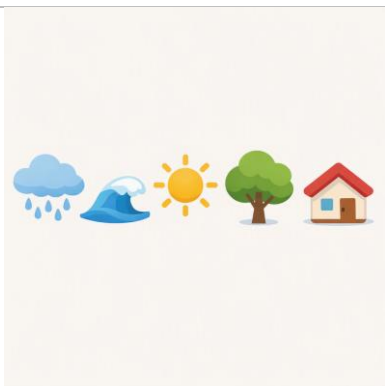


What is a natural disaster?

A **natural disaster** is a serious event caused by nature.

Natural disasters can sometimes damage homes, roads, services and hurt people.

Natural disasters on the Central Coast can include floods, storms, coastal erosion, landslips, bushfires, drought, heatwaves and tsunamis.



What some words mean

A **flood** is when water covers land that is usually dry.

A **storm** can bring heavy rain, strong wind, lightning or hail.

Coastal erosion is when waves, storms or rising sea levels damage beaches and land near the coast.

A **landslip** is when soil, rocks or land move down a slope.

A **bushfire** is a fire that burns through bushland, grassland or forests.

A **drought** is a long time without enough rain.

A **heatwave** is a time when the weather is very hot for several days.

A **tsunami** is a large ocean wave caused by movement under the sea.



Why does the Central Coast need this Strategy?

The Central Coast has many beautiful places.

These include beaches, lakes, rivers, bushland, forests and wetlands.

Many people live near these places.

Many people also live near the coast, waterways, low-lying land and bushfire prone land.

This means some people, homes, roads and services can be affected by natural disasters.



The Central Coast has already experienced many natural disasters. These include bushfires, floods, storms, coastal erosion and heatwaves.

Climate change may make some natural disasters happen more often.

Climate change may also make some natural disasters more severe.

Climate change means long-term changes to the weather.



What does disaster resilience mean?

Disaster resilience means being better able to prepare before a disaster.

It means staying as safe as possible during a disaster.

It means recovering after a disaster.

It also means learning from what happened and being better prepared next time.

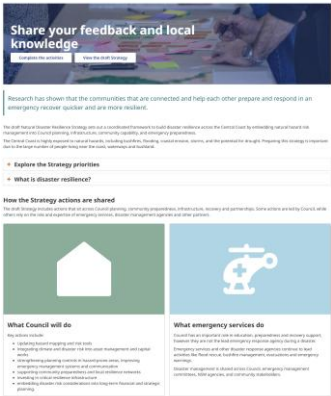
Disaster resilience is not only about emergencies. It is also about planning ahead and reducing risks before disasters happen.

	Our vision Council's vision is: We work together to create a safe and resilient Central Coast community. This means our community can prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.
	Everyone has a role Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility. This means many people and organisations have a role. This includes Council, emergency services and governments. It also includes community organisations, businesses, local communities and residents. During many emergencies, emergency services lead the response. Council supports emergency services. Council also helps before and after disasters.
	What Council does Council does not control every emergency. Council has an important role. Council helps by planning for natural disaster risks. Council shares information with the community. Council supports emergency services and recovery after disasters. Council also cares for roads, buildings, water, sewer and other local services. Council also works with the NSW Reconstruction Authority. The NSW Reconstruction Authority helps communities reduce disaster risk and recover after disasters.

	Some people may need more support Some people may be more affected by natural disasters. This can include older people, people with disability and people who live alone. It can also include people on low incomes, people without safe housing and people experiencing homelessness. It can include people who cannot easily get information, people without internet access and people who need support to evacuate. Evacuate means leave a place because it is not safe. Council wants to better understand who may need more support. Council also wants to work with communities to plan for these needs.
	What the Strategy will focus on The Strategy will focus on 4 main things. 1. Understand disaster risk Council will work to better understand where natural disasters may happen. Council will look at who may be affected, what services may be affected and how climate change may increase risks. 2. Make better decisions Council will include disaster risk in planning and decisions. This includes decisions about land use, buildings, roads, drainage, water, sewer, community facilities and budgets. 3. Invest in reducing risk Council will look for ways to reduce disaster risk. This may include stronger infrastructure and better planning controls. It may also include better emergency communication, protecting natural areas

	and working with other infrastructure owners. Infrastructure means important things communities need, like roads, bridges, drains, water pipes, sewer systems, buildings and technology. 4. Prepare for response and recovery Council will work with other organisations to improve emergency planning, communication during disasters, recovery after disasters and learning after disasters. Recovery means getting help and rebuilding after a disaster.
	The 10 priorities The Strategy has 10 priorities. Priority 1 Make disaster resilience part of Council planning. Priority 2 Understand disaster risks across the Central Coast. Priority 3 Make public infrastructure stronger. Priority 4 Plan safer places to live. Priority 5 Plan for climate change. Priority 6 Support communities to prepare. Priority 7 Protect important services and infrastructure. Priority 8 Protect natural areas that help reduce

	disaster risk. Priority 9 Strengthen emergency response and recovery. Priority 10 Learn from disasters.
	Community knowledge is important Local people know their communities. Local people may know where flooding happens, which roads can be cut off, who may need help, where communication can be difficult, what worked well in past disasters and what did not work well. The Strategy says Council should learn from community knowledge. Council should also work with communities to build local disaster resilience.
	How the Strategy will happen The Strategy will guide work over the next 10 years and beyond. Council will work with emergency services, NSW Government, Australian Government, community organisations, businesses and local communities. Council will include the Strategy in its regular planning and reporting. Council will use existing Council plans and budgets to help deliver the actions. Council’s Disaster Resilience Working Group will help coordinate the work. The Local Emergency Management Committee is a group that helps plan for emergencies in the local area.



Have your say

Council wants to know if we have got this Strategy right.

You can tell Council what you think about the Draft Natural Disaster Resilience Strategy.

You can tell Council what helps your community stay strong.

You can tell Council who people go to for help during a natural disaster.

You can tell Council where people go for support, information or safety.

You can share how neighbours, groups and organisations help each other.

You can share what helped your community in past natural disasters.

You can have your say on Your Voice Our Coast.

Website:

www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/natural-disaster-resilience-strategy