



# Climate Change, Emergency Management & Community Resilience

Dr Allison Godber  
Operations Policy Branch, EMQ  
Department of Community Safety

Queensland's Climate Change Strategy



**Toward**   
Toward's Queensland

 **Queensland**  
Government

# In this presentation

- What's likely to happen?
- Challenges for emergency management
- Policy response
- What the Department of Community Safety is doing



# What's Likely to Happen?

- ***Tropical cyclones:*** uncertainty remains, likely there will be more intense events & increased frequency further south towards more populated areas
- ***Rising sea levels & storm surge events:*** high level certainty of some sea level rise resulting from thermal expansion, affected by intensity of storms
- ***Rainfall events:*** some areas are likely to experience intensified rainfall events = an increased risk of flooding



# What's Likely to Happen?

- **Heat waves:** high level certainty of increased frequency & intensity
- **Fire danger:** strong evidence of an increase in frequency of high fire risk days, with uncertainty about the magnitude of change



# Challenges for Emergency Management

- More extreme events
- More people exposed to 'new' hazards
- Existing properties & infrastructure
- Uncertainty around predictions
- Volunteerism

*All impact community resilience*



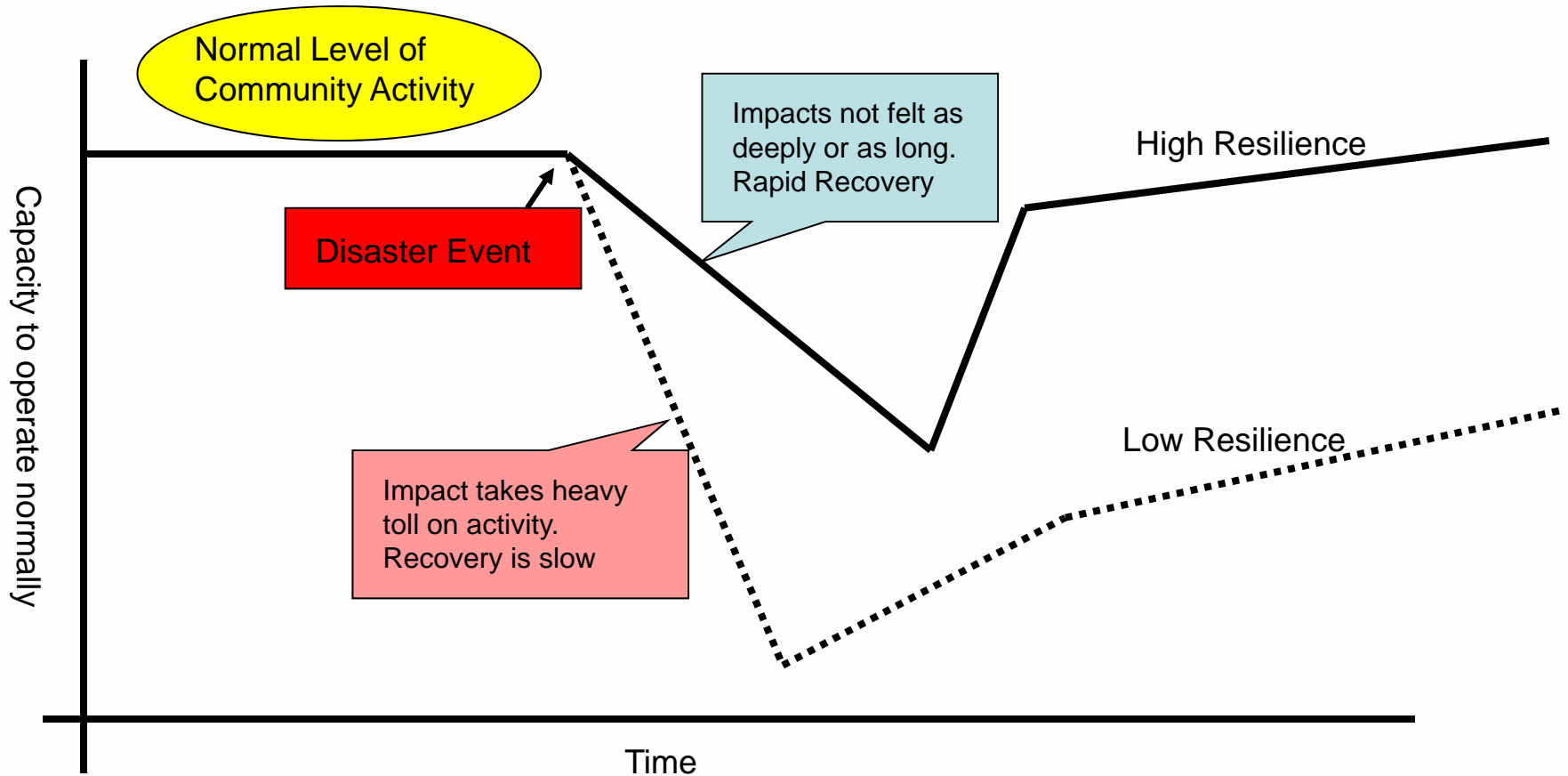
# Adaptation & Disaster Management

The goal is to establish resilient communities

- Planning measures
- Policy interventions
- The market
- Government grants
- Emergency response
- Empowered communities



# The Importance of Resilience



# Communities with a higher resilience to disasters tend to ...

- High rate of returning to own home
- Return to employment in existing businesses
- Rapid repair of community infrastructure
- High levels of participation in community initiatives
- Increased ability to face the next event





# Communities with a lower resilience to disasters tend to ...

- Long term usage of emergency accommodation
- Unemployment resulting from non operable businesses
- Higher reliance on welfare & outside agencies
- High rates of permanent outward migration
- Limited ability to prepare for the next event



# Department of Community Safety (DCS) Policy Response

- Contribute to the state & national climate change agendas
- At a state level:
  - A partner organisation with the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology, contributing to research related to preventing the health effects of heatwave;
  - Projects to create resources to build community resilience;



# What DCS is doing

- Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities
- Natural Disaster Resilience Program
- Supporting Our Heroes
- The Bushfire Community Training Package
- Disaster Management Warehouses & Caches
- Disaster management doctrine



# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

Suite of projects:

- Evacuation Guidelines
- Community Resilience Framework
- Keeping our Mob Climate Safe
- Building Property Resilience
- Building Business Resilience



# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

## Evacuation Guidelines

- The development of all hazards guidelines that can be implemented across the state.
- Consistent approaches to mapping & zoning for evacuation
- Trials by Local Governments



# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

## Community Resilience Framework

- Blueprint for community engagement supported by a range of educational materials.
- What processes are in place & working now & what can we learn from them
- Trials are being developed for implementation in at least three local government areas.



# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

## Building Property Resilience

- Produced in conjunction with Building Services Authority & JCU Cyclone Testing Station.
- DVD & brochure highlighting measures that will reduce cyclone & storm damage to property
- Two versions available at the Government Stand –
  - Building professionals &
  - Homeowners



# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

## Keeping our Mob Climate Safe

- Help Indigenous communities prepare for severe weather events
- Employ & provide training for Indigenous Field Officers based in FNQ to:
  - Enhance DM planning & exercising
  - Support Indigenous volunteers





# Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities

## Building Business Resilience

- Focus on developing:
  - a comprehensive engagement tool
  - resource materials to assist the business community in increasing it's resilience to disaster events



# Natural Disaster Resilience Program

- Four year, \$44 million competitive grants program that seeks to build community resilience through disaster mitigation & other measures.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have considered the projected impacts of climate change



# Supporting our Heroes

## State Emergency Service:

- New equipment & training to SES groups.

## Rural Fire Service:

- New equipment including new fire appliances & retrofitting of the existing fleet.



# The Bushfire Community Training Package

- Development of 3,000 volunteer community educators to deliver bushfire education to local communities.
- This network will augment the efforts of volunteer fire brigades through the timely provision of operational & safety information to the public.
- The package will build community awareness of the nature & risk of bushfires, & of measures for preparing & protecting lives, property & the environment.



# Disaster Management Warehouses

- Two disaster management warehouses:
  - one in South East Queensland
  - one in Townsville
- Support the rapid response & reliable deployment of supplies in disaster response or recovery situations.



# Emergency Management Doctrine

- State Planning Policy 1/03
- Planning guidelines for local government & disaster district management groups
- Community education products – found at <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/beprepared.asp>



# In conclusion

- Climate change is another risk that must be incorporated within disaster risk reduction frameworks
- Key is to enhance community resilience & this is the collective responsibility of all sectors of society



# Thank You

