

Supporting Paper

SHAPE IT. STRENGTHEN IT.

Supporting the Refresh of South
Australia's Disaster Resilience
Strategy 2026–2030



**Government
of South Australia**

South Australian
Fire and
Emergency Services
Commission



Shape it. Strengthen it.

Refresh of South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy 2026–2030

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge this land. The Dreaming is still living. From the past, in the present, into the future, forever.

Introduction

Australia faces an increasingly complex disaster landscape, with recent events highlighting the cascading and compounding nature of disasters. Strengthening disaster resilience is long term effort which needs everyone working together. It's not a one-off effort – it's about learning, adapting, and improving over time.

Background

Stronger Together: South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy was our first disaster resilience strategy in 2019 and was created with ideas from more than 500 people, including government, businesses, not-for-profits, universities, and the community.

Over the past five years, *Stronger Together* delivered real and lasting progress for South Australians, with more than 180 initiatives building disaster resilience across South Australia.

Examples include:

- South Australia led the way nationally in [mapping social capital](#) to better understand resilience, while projects in

[farming, forestry](#), and [grape and wine](#) helped key sectors to better understand and plan for future risks.

- More than 570 young people shared their ideas with the Australian Red Cross to inform a Youth Perspectives Road Map, recommending new pathways for young people to be involved in emergency management.
- Several local [museums and libraries](#) improved their disaster preparedness; the training was also delivered to colleagues in India. South Australia hosted its first Cultural Heritage and Disasters Forum, bringing the Emergency Management and Heritage sectors together for the first time to discuss common aims.
- A new framework was co-designed with partners to better support [people most at risk](#) in emergencies
- Collaboration between the emergency management sector and Aboriginal colleagues and communities, created initiatives, via a dedicated grant stream, to support partnerships. This supported the development of the state's first [Planning Guide](#) to strengthen resilience and preparedness in Aboriginal communities.
- The [Disaster Risk Reduction Grants program](#) built stronger partnerships across government, industry, and community, helping to create a more connected and resilient state.



Looking Ahead: 2026–2030

Disaster risks are changing over time, influenced by:

- Climate change and more extreme weather events
- Interconnected infrastructure and system dependencies
- Emerging technologies and new ways of managing risk
- Evolving community needs and expectations

In late 2025, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) requested the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) to lead the refresh of the Disaster Resilience Strategy for the period 2026 – 2030.

SAFECOM are supported by a Time Limited Working Group – Disaster Resilience (TLWG-DR) consisting of senior representatives from both government and non-government agencies and organisations.

It is anticipated the refreshed Strategy will be completed in late 2026.

This refreshed strategy, building on progress already made, will continue to guide how we work together to strengthen disaster resilience and reduce risk across the state while making sure approaches are fair, inclusive, and reflect local needs.

By working together, we can keep South Australia at the forefront of disaster resilience – leading with new ideas, practical solutions, and collaboration

that benefits everyone and reduces disaster risks.

We are seeking your views and thoughts.

Purpose of Consultation

- Input from this consultation will be used to inform the refreshed Disaster Resilience Strategy, including consideration of strategic directions, priorities and actions.
- All feedback will be reviewed and considered; however not all suggestions will necessarily be adopted.
- Views are welcomed from all perspectives, including lived experience, professional expertise, and community input.

What is Resilience?

Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, systems, and environments to prepare for, withstand, respond to, and recover from disasters. Responsibility for resilience building is shared across the whole community and involves, for example:

- Individuals and households
- Community groups and volunteers
- Local, State, and Federal Government
- Emergency services
- Business and industry
- Research and non-government organisations

What Influences Resilience?

- **People and communities** – Social connection, inclusion, local knowledge, and consideration of people and groups who may be



more vulnerable to disaster impacts.

- **Governance and planning** – Policy development, coordination, decision-making, and partnerships across government, community, and other sectors.
- **Infrastructure and essential services** – Transport, power, water, telecommunications, and other critical systems that support community functioning before, during, and after disasters.
- **Environment and climate** – Climate change, natural hazard management, and the role of green and nature-based infrastructure in reducing risk and impacts.
- **Information and technology** – Access to timely warnings, data, modelling, mapping, and emerging technologies that support preparedness, response, and recovery.
- **Preparedness, response and recovery** – Capability, training, emergency services, coordination, and systems that support effective response and recovery.
- **Economy, business and supply chains** – Business continuity and economic resilience, including small and medium enterprises, primary industries, supply chains and logistics, access to essential goods and services, insurance and financial systems that support recovery and rebuilding, and the resilience of regional and local economies.

In practice, resilience may look like

- Neighbours checking on each other during heatwaves
- Early warnings being clear and acted upon
- Roads, power, and communications continuing during emergencies
- Communities recovering quickly and fairly after events
- Strong coordination across agencies and local government
- Farms and primary production continuing or recovering after extreme events
- Small businesses reopening quickly after disruption
- Supply chains continuing to deliver essential goods (food, fuel, medical supplies)
- Insurance and financial support enabling faster recovery for households and businesses

QUERIES

If you have any questions, please email SAFECOM.Resilience@eso.sa.gov.au

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Below are some documents that you might find useful to inform your response.

- [Emergency Management Act 2004](#)
- [Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005](#)
- [Government Action on Climate Change](#)
- [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#)
- [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#)
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
- [Stronger Together – South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy](#)