

# Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland

## Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil



**FRRR**  
Foundation for Rural  
Regional Renewal



**Australian Government**

**Issue Date: March 2026**

**Updated by: Red Earth Community Foundation  
and FRRR**



# Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil

<b>Part 1: Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Introduction.....	4
Section A: Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Program Outline and Intent .....	4
Section B: Purpose of Document .....	5
Section C: Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience .....	5
Section D: Internal Advisory Group.....	6
Community Journey .....	7
Section E: Dallarnil Profile .....	7
Section F: DR:FR Community Engagement.....	8
Section G: Localised Reflection on Critical Dimensions.....	9
Section H: Dallarnil Resilience Statement .....	10
Section I: DR:FR Funded Initiatives.....	10
Consolidating the Dallarnil Hall as a ‘Community Meeting Place’ .....	10
The Dallarnil Community Resilience Connection Project.....	10
Section J: Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Rationale.....	11
Section K: Community Aspirations for the Future.....	12
Dallarnil Disaster Management Information.....	12
The Importance of Integrating Cross Sector Collaboration & Partnerships .....	13
Section L: Council Disaster Management Officers .....	13
Section M: Local Disaster Management Groups .....	14
Section N: Neighbourhood Centres.....	15
<b>Section 2: Learnings from Broader Program Activities &amp; Resources to Support Future Effort.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Regional Initiatives .....	17
Person Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP).....	17
Disaster Relief Australia Big Map .....	18
Youth Insights Report .....	20
Australian Disaster Resilience Conference DR:FR Delegations.....	20
Red Earth Resilience Leadership Forum .....	21
NFP House Capacity Building Workshops.....	22
Climate Trend Conversations Facilitated by Sweltering Cities.....	23

DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub ..... 24

**Appendix A:.....25**

**Appendix B: DR:FR Program Framework .....26**

Cover photo: Richard Cox Photography

# Part 1: Summary

## Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Introduction

### Section A: Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Program Outline and Intent

Disaster Resilient: Future Ready (DR:FR) is a national program that helps remote, rural and regional communities to be better prepared for future disasters. Place-based, FRRR first piloted the DR:FR program in New South Wales, before subsequently undertaking multi-year programs in both Victoria and the Burnett Inland region of Queensland.

An evolution of the DR:FR program in Queensland is that FRRR worked with local delivery partner Red Earth Community Foundation (Red Earth). Red Earth leveraged their networks, expertise and adaptable approach towards community resilience planning to support local partner communities in the Burnett Inland to strengthen their resilience. This effort has been made possible through the financial support of the Minderoo Foundation and the Australian Government's Preparing Australian Communities Program – Local.

The overall aim of the DR:FR program is to develop and lead regional and localised community initiatives that strengthen awareness, increase preparedness, and enhance capacity of the local community to thrive and be resilient to the impacts of climate, disasters, and other disruptions. This includes building local knowledge of climate risks, catalysing leadership, fostering collaboration and facilitating community-driven innovation processes to develop and activate strategic actions and strategies that:

- Strengthen community capacity to positively adapt and evolve to change and disruption;
- Increase disaster preparedness to better mitigate, avoid, withstand and / or recover more effectively from the increasing effects of hazards such as bushfires and floods; and
- Improve community wellbeing and enhance resilience, so communities can grow and flourish.

The pace of program delivery aims to respond to the individual needs of each community and activities may include:

- Capacity building workshops;
- Facilitated community conversations;
- Community building and engagement events;
- Co-design workshops;
- Relationship and network building; and
- Activation of priority initiatives.

The partner communities identified by Red Earth in the early phase of the program included Cherbourg, Dallarnil, Kalpowar, Kumbia, Proston and Tansey. A focus in the selection process was assessment of a community's capacity in the first 72 hours after a disaster. These communities had access to local

community funding for activities that enhanced their capacity to thrive and be resilient to the impacts of climate, disasters and other disruptions.

Another stream of activities supported collaboration across regional agencies and organisations through the development of regional level resilience building initiatives for collective impact.

## Section B: Purpose of Document

This **Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil** document has multiple purposes. Firstly, it serves to document the journey and outcomes of the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready** program in Dallarnil, including community engagement processes, community mapping and the identification and development of locally driven initiatives aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience in the present, and to support local community considerations in the development of future initiatives.

Iterative versions of the Roadmap acted as a vital resource for the program’s Internal Advisory Group (IAG), whose remit was to provide local advice and insights to the overall DR:FR Burnett Inland program to ensure it was delivered in alignment with local needs and priorities, within the construct of program donor parameters. By consolidating information, insights, actions and outcomes, the Roadmap aims to foster alignment with the broader disaster management ecosystem and capture the unique strengths and needs of the Dallarnil community.

Furthermore, the Roadmap was also a critical element in FRRR’s granting due diligence and provided the FRRR Board, which ultimately approved DR:FR Burnett Inland grant applications, with information about the development of initiatives and how they align to program principles, evidence of broader need, and considerations of the context.

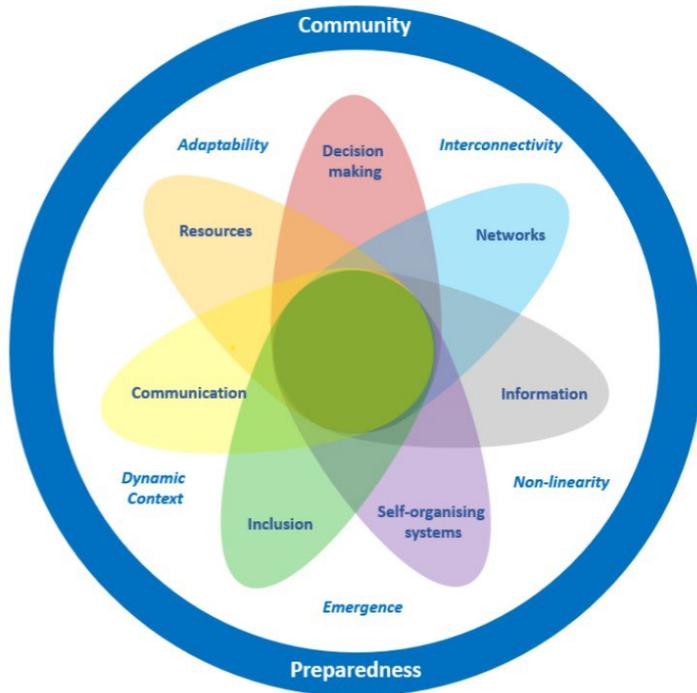
## Section C: Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience

The place-based model of the DR:FR program integrates workshops, resources and learning opportunities into the model to support local activation. These ways of learning are informed by FRRR’s previous experiences delivering disaster resilience and recovery programs across Australia, and are also drawn from endorsed industry sources.

A key framework that underpins how the DR:FR program understands and considers resilience is the Critical Dimensions for Community Resilience. Drawing on research with communities experiencing disasters and other shocks in Australia over time, as well as a growing body of published research, University of Sydney researchers documented and developed a set of key areas, or dimensions, which are helpful in guiding and supporting community led work in disaster preparedness and resilience building. In collaboration with FRRR through an action research partnership, these dimensions were seen in action in communities impacted by disasters.

As noted in the [Action Research Report for Community Partners into FRRR’s Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Victoria Program](#) report (Joseph, P., Rawsthorne, M. & Howard, A. (2025) “While the Resilience Dimensions identify seven distinct areas of action to strengthen disaster preparedness, these sit within a larger realm of complexity thinking or complex systems.” Furthermore, “Including this kind of thinking

offers new and promising directions for anyone interested in disaster resilience building, and it helps us understand often invisible dynamics and feedback loops which enable and prevent action.”



Resilience-building Dimensions (Rawsthorne, M., Howard, A., Joseph, P., Sampson, D., and Katrak Harris, M. (2023). Understanding community-led disaster preparedness. Australian Journal of Emergency Management. 38(2), 49-54)

FRRR recognises that, nationally, disaster management is a busy and complex space and so takes an inclusive approach through focusing efforts on the Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience as a supportive framework for affected communities, regardless of the type of climate related impact. While ‘drought’ by national definition and by program donors is not considered a disaster, it is listed in the community profile for Dallarnil given its wide ranging local climatic and social impact, particularly given the history of drought in the region and its close connection to both heatwaves and fire.

### Section D: Internal Advisory Group

DR:FR Burnett Inland established an Internal Advisory Group (IAG) to create an informal advisory mechanism in relation to operational processes of the program. The IAG was designed to engender collaboration, information sharing, local input, and a continual learning loop to strengthen the working relationship between Red Earth, FRRR, local organisations and community, and bolster coordination between local emergency management agencies and community level self-determination.

In addition to Red Earth and FRRR participation, broader local representation included Disaster Management Officers from South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council and Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. Leadership from local community organisations and government agencies were

also represented, including South Burnett CTC, Liver Better Monto, and the Department of Primary Industries QLD.

Governance of the IAG was critical and supported by Terms of Reference which outlined the remit, roles and responsibilities, confidentiality, conflict of interest and respectful conduct. The IAG aimed to meet monthly through the program which mainly occurred online.

## Community Journey

### Section E: Dallarnil Profile

Dallarnil is a small rural township located 15 km north of Biggenden in the North Burnett Regional Council area, within the state electorate of Callide, and federal division of Flynn. The town lies 95 km west of Maryborough, 85 km south of Bundaberg and 299 km north-west of Brisbane.

### People and Place

- **First Nations:** Wakka Wakka people
- **Population:** 245 (2021 Census)
- **SEIFA:** 13
- **Remoteness:** Outer Regional (RA3)

### History and Identity

The town's name originated from the Dallarnil railway station, assigned in 1911 and derived from a pastoral run name meaning 'big hill'.

### Climate and Disaster History

The Dallarnil/Biggenden area has experienced recurring droughts and major weather events, including the Federation Drought (1895–1902), the Millennium Drought (1997–2009), and severe flooding in early 2022 which inundated homes. Other notable events include Ex-Tropical Cyclones Beni (2003), Oswald (2013), Marcia (2015), and Debbie (2017).

### Disaster Resilience

Dallarnil falls under the North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan, with the Biggenden Disaster Support Plan covering surrounding localities. The [Australian Disaster Resilience Index](#) assesses the broader Gayndah–Mundubbera area (including Dallarnil/Biggenden) as having **low disaster resilience**, with limited coping capacity and adaptive capacity. Contributing factors include entrenched social and economic disadvantage, lower service access, reduced community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning.

## Community Context

Dallarnil is experiencing demographic change, with new residents relocating from cities, and a noticeable rise in people living in caravans on private land. While this growth brings fresh perspectives, it also highlights vulnerabilities, particularly among newcomers unfamiliar with the area's disaster risks and older residents who make up much of the community's population (who are predominantly aged over 50).

Volunteer fatigue is evident, yet there remains a spirit of cooperation during times of crisis when the community rallies together. Despite enthusiasm for the area, connections between different groups can feel fragmented. The ongoing upgrades to Dallarnil Hall are seen as an opportunity to strengthen cohesion by establishing a central community hub.

Key challenges include the lack of regular community events outside of disaster response, limited phone and internet coverage, and risks associated with isolated properties hidden down long driveways—sometimes unknown to emergency services. Concerns have also been raised about the need for fire and flood mitigation works, as well as ensuring that valuable local knowledge about disaster impacts is shared with newer residents.

## Section F: DR:FR Community Engagement

Red Earth adopted an agile and responsive approach to community engagement in Dallarnil, ensuring that the process remained inclusive, iterative, and community-led.

Engagement began in October 2023 with a series of community sessions held at the Dallarnil Hall throughout late 2023 and 2024. These sessions brought together a cross-section of residents, with attendance ranging from small groups of seven to larger gatherings of over 20 people.

Across these sessions, the community worked through a program framework organised by the topics of prepare, people, place and possibilities (see Appendix A) to explore local challenges, map assets, and identifying priorities. Facilitation activities included community mapping, dotmocracy voting to identify priorities, interactive assessments, and solution-sorting exercises. These activities helped the community build a shared vision for resilience and co-design a set of community-led initiatives.

The engagement process also provided opportunities for collaboration directly with FRRR representatives, who supported conversations around funding guidelines and processes. By the end of 2024, the community had refined and prioritised a set of initiatives that were ready to move forward.

Throughout 2025, regular community engagement continued, with the establishment of the Dallarnil DR:FR Working Group. This group has played a pivotal role in sustaining momentum, working closely with Red Earth, FRRR and the auspicing organisation, LiveBetter, to activate and implement initiatives identified through the engagement process.

The DR:FR program brokered connection between Working Group members and the North Burnett Regional Council, particularly the Disaster Management Officer, to ensure that formal disaster management considerations were incorporated into resources, information and project outcomes.

This ongoing engagement has not only fostered stronger local connections, but has also ensured that initiatives remain firmly grounded in community priorities, while aligned with broader disaster resilience planning across the North Burnett region.

## Section G: Localised Reflection on Critical Dimensions

**Networks:** Dallarnil has some very strong volunteer organisations, including the Dallarnil Sports Association and the North Dallarnil Fire Brigade. There are also re-emerging informal networks amongst community members. While everyone pulls together in times of crisis, it is noted that sectors of community and local organisations tend to operate as silos.

**Information:** There is a wealth of local knowledge in Dallarnil, with the DR:FR program both scaffolding conversations for knowledge sharing and actively exploring ways for this local exchange to happen on a regular basis.

**Self-organising Systems:** There are the systems associated with local volunteer organisations based in Dallarnil, and some community capacity to self-organise, particularly during and immediately after a disaster.

**Inclusion:** Dallarnil is aware that there are vulnerable people within their community, i.e. older residents or newer residents who have recently relocated from places with no similar context of disaster impacts, and actively seeks to involve them, or advocate for their needs.

**Communication:** Communication within Dallarnil is an area of concern, with limited phone and internet coverage impacting the ways which people can stay connected. Letterbox drops are the preferred way to promote upcoming events, and informal phone trees and word-of-mouth form the foundation of information sharing. Through the process of the DR:FR program, locals decided to choose and promote a specific UHF channel for use by locals and travelers as a way to connect both socially and in the event of a disaster.

**Resources, Tools and Support:** Dallarnil has a proven ability to draw on local skills, knowledge, effort and time to activate community-led efforts. The Dallarnil Sports Association has also been successful in gaining external financial support through significant funding for upgrades to the Dallarnil Hall.

**Decision Making:** Dallarnil has a desire to work more closely with North Burnett Regional Council in order for their collective community voice to be heard and for that voice to influence decision making in relation to warning systems and mitigation strategies. The DR:FR program has supported the brokerage of these connections.

## Section H: Dallarnil Resilience Statement

As part of the community engagement process, participating community members co-designed statements to capture what resilience meant for them collectively. It is intended that Dallarnil reflects on this statement over time, so that it can evolve to reflect the changing nature of community life.

**“Dallarnil is a resilient community that is prepared and equipped to manage the unexpected. It is a community that is inclusive and connected, where people know each other and have access to local leaders and information before, during and after an event. Dallarnil has a strong volunteer base and regular opportunities to get together, to welcome newcomers, and to share information.”**

## Section I: DR:FR Funded Initiatives

### Consolidating the Dallarnil Hall as a ‘Community Meeting Place’

*Lead organisation: Dallarnil Sports Association Inc.*

This initiative focused on resourcing the Dallarnil Hall as a Community Meeting Place through resources and information systems, including the installation of a community noticeboard with relevant disaster preparedness information and awareness raising of formal disaster management communication channels, i.e. North Burnett Regional Council’s Disaster Dashboard. The information sign also promotes a local UHF channel for communication, for both general communications and during a disaster event. This initiative also included the purchase of a generator and storage shipping container.

*Project Partners*

Dallarnil Sports Association Inc, North Burnett Regional Council, Dallarnil DR:FR Working Group, Red Earth Community Foundation, FRRR.

**Outcomes: “Knowing that the upgrades have been done and that there is somewhere for community to meet if needed is a comfort. For example, during a recent fire, it was good to know the resources were now at the hall and we have back up power supply if we become isolated. The generator was also recently used as part of local event where we hosted Tom Curtain at the grounds, which attracted more than 400 people. Having this capacity to deliver big events will support us to continue to foster community spirit and connectedness.”**

### The Dallarnil Community Resilience Connection Project

*Lead organisation: LiveBetter Monto*

This initiative was iterated and refined over time to focus on the delivery of a schedule of local events, aimed at bridging community divide, increasing community cohesion and amplifying disaster preparedness for the local community. LiveBetter Monto collaborated closely with the Dallarnil DR:FR

Working Group to host two community dinners and a fun day. The project focused on improving skills, knowledge, and capacity of local people and organisations to be better prepared for future disasters by sharing preparedness information amongst local people. This was particularly focused on knowledge sharing from longer-term residents, the provision of disaster kits to residents, and profiling local emergency services. By providing hands on event management assistance and resources, the intent is that LiveBetter Monto builds the capacity of the Dallarnil Working Group to be able to activate future events with increased confidence and support.

#### *Project Partners*

LiveBetter Monto, North Burnett Regional Council, Dallarnil DR:FR Working Group, Red Earth Community Foundation, FRRR and local emergency service agencies.

**Outcomes: “The grant has plugged the Dallarnil community into the disaster support services offered by LiveBetter Monto, who have provided the hall with a disaster recovery starter kit to support preparedness, ensure an inclusive meeting place and minimise stress for the local community. The events were an opportunity for the community to model that they can work together in the good times with the intent that they will transfer this know-how and confidence to working together through disaster events. It has also inspired the community to continue to host events.”**

## Section J: Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Rationale

The funded initiatives align with four of the Resilience Dimensions – **Networks; Self-organising Systems; Resources, Tools and Support; and Information.**

The initiatives strengthen local **Networks** by activating the Dallarnil Hall as a community hub and central meeting place for regular events, thereby fostering collaboration amongst community members and organisations. It provides an avenue for residents to connect, share knowledge and experiences, build relationships, enhance social cohesion and increase disaster preparedness.

The establishment of the Dallarnil DR:FR Working Group is aligned to **Self-organising Systems**, noting that a cross-section of community members has come together to collaborate and drive local resilience efforts. The hall itself also supports self-organisation by serving as a flexible space where community can gather, plan and hold events.

Resourcing the hall with a generator and shipping container meets **Resources, Tools and Support** by transforming the hall into a reliable community asset, equipping the town with a facility that serves as both a social hub and a resource center for disaster preparedness and recovery.

By developing and installing a community noticeboard and hosting events that include disaster preparedness discussions, the initiative ensures vital **Information** is shared locally. This helps address the gaps in communications (poor phone and internet connectivity) by facilitating alternate ways to exchange knowledge and information.

## Section K: Community Aspirations for the Future

### *Disaster Scenario Exercise*

- Run practice drills for different emergencies (like floods, bushfires, storms) to test how prepared the community is and highlight any gaps in current plans.

### *Community Events for Unity*

- Continue hosting local events, such as regular indoor bowls gatherings, to bring people together, reduce divisions, and build stronger social connections.

### *Informal Community Assets*

- Map and promote local supports and assets that community are willing to share to strengthen community ties and reduce divisions.

### *Communication with LDMG*

- Establish a clear point of contact and communication pathway with the Local Disaster Management Group to ensure efficient response during and after events, and timely updates on new resources like the rain river gauge and resilience initiatives (i.e. Resilient Building Council) to support ongoing community preparedness.

### *Fridge Magnet Resource*

- Work with North Burnett Regional Council to design a fridge magnet that shares practical flood information, including rain river gauge details and flood triggers, so households have quick access to vital information.

### *Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP)*

- Increase awareness of P-CEP planning, making sure community members who need extra support know about available resources and trained contacts at LiveBetter Monto.

### *Exploring a New Community Entity*

- Consider whether to form a new Dallarnil-focused organisation for community development or collaborate with existing groups and organisations. Weigh the pros and cons, especially around volunteer time, governance, and sustainability.

## Dallarnil Disaster Management Information

A key source of emergency management information for the Dallarnil community is the North Burnett Regional Council.

For information about how to prepare for the next disaster, community members can visit Council's Disaster Management section on their website: <https://northburnett.qld.gov.au/disaster-management/>

For up-to-date information during a disaster, go directly to Council’s Emergency Management Dashboard: <https://emergency.northburnett.qld.gov.au/> and subscribe to receive weather warnings and disaster updates via email and text message (text only activated during disaster events).

Links to the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Plan and Community Disaster Support Group Plans can be found under the Other Helpful Resources Tab at the bottom of the Disaster Management Page: <https://northburnett.qld.gov.au/disaster-management/>

## The Importance of Integrating Cross Sector Collaboration & Partnerships

Informed by the [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) (NDRRF), the DR:FR program was designed with awareness that “disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility.” This mutual obligation is between emergency management agencies, including local government (formal) and business, community organisations and individuals (informal). As the NDRRF also acknowledges, responsibilities between these stakeholders “is not equally shared, and it can often be unclear where certain responsibilities lie.” For this reason, a very important aspect of the DR:FR program is about brokering partnerships and collaboration to support understanding of who can do what to support risk reduction and resilience building.

The DR:FR program aims to support, resource and strengthen the ‘informal’ community resilience building and preparedness efforts at the grassroots level, while working in collaboration with the formalised support systems. Part of the program’s intent is to increase local awareness of current ‘formal’ disaster preparedness efforts, as well as response and recovery roles and responsibilities, particularly by local government.

This section of the Roadmap aims to detail mechanisms that were established as part of the program to bring about shared responsibility, the benefits of collaborating with local government and the role neighbourhood centres could play in supporting local working groups of volunteer community members to develop, coordinate and deliver initiatives.

The IAG was a strategic way to support this critical activation of collaboration. IAG representatives were vital in the program’s ability to understand the local context with regards to service provisions and emergency management arrangements, providing an easeful resource to ensure locally designed initiatives worked in concert with existing activities.

### Section L: Council Disaster Management Officers

Disaster Management Officers (DMO) from South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council and Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council were active members of the IAG. Furthermore, these representatives, in addition to the DMO at Gympie Regional Council, were engaged in conversations with community working groups and grantee applicants to support the development of initiatives so that grassroots projects complimented and understood the roles and responsibilities of formal disaster emergency management arrangements and protocols.

Brokering collaboration between these key roles in formal disaster management with community members and grantees supported local awareness of:

- Local **Disaster Dashboards** as the source of truth for up-to-date weather warning and emergency news.
- How suitable facilities can act as important **community meeting places** throughout the disaster cycle.
  - In **preparedness** this may be holding information sessions or having a noticeboard with relevant info and hosting regular social cohesion activities.
  - In times of **response** these spaces may be used by community members to charge phones, receive information together, boil kettles, share stories and support.
  - These spaces may also be established as **recovery** hubs after a disaster where required agencies could attend or where community led activities could occur like creative and craft projects that foster connection.
- The **Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements**, particularly for staff from four Neighbourhood Centres in the Burnett Inland, so that when developing Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness plans with individuals, there is awareness of broader formal emergency management protocols.

## Section M: Local Disaster Management Groups

Local governments appoint Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG). Their role is to:

- Develop, review and assess effective disaster management practices;
- Help local government to prepare a local disaster management plan;
- Ensure the community knows how to respond in a disaster;
- Identify and coordinate disaster resources;
- Manage local disaster operations; and
- Ensure local disaster management and disaster operations integrate with state disaster management.

During the DR:FR Program, Red Earth and FRRR staff met with LDMG members in the South and North Burnett through face-to-face meetings and online deputations as part of scheduled meetings. The purpose of these opportunities was to build awareness of the DR:FR program intent, activities and community needs, and to foster an ethos of collaboration and feedback loops to support best possible outcomes on the ground and into the future.

Outcomes of the program engagement with LDMG's included:

- Recognition by North Burnett LDMG of the DR:FR local community consultation in Dallarnil and Kalpowar in Local Disaster Management Plans.
- Custodianship by South Burnett LDMG of the DRA Big Map assets as a tool to support ongoing emergency management training, plus collaborative education events between emergency management agencies, councils, schools and community organisations.

## Section N: Neighbourhood Centres

The purposes of Neighbourhood Centres commonly reflect community needs, with a particular focus to support those marginalised or disadvantaged, they also can act as a hub for other support agencies in rural and regional areas. For these reasons these organisations and the established systems that they have can play an important role for local communities throughout the disaster cycle. This has been the case, dependent on capacities, for Neighbourhood Centres within the Burnett Inland.

Through both locally funded initiatives, as well as through projects that offered region wide support, Neighbourhood Centres have been engaged in the DR:FR program.

### Auspicing community-led ideas and funding applications

In Dallarnil, where a working group of committed volunteers had been engaging in the DR:FR program process, there was no established purpose aligned entity that could apply for DR:FR grant funding to activate the ideas generated by community members. In response, a partnership was brokered by the program between LiveBetter Monto and the Working Group, building on an existing connection established through previous recovery efforts. Whilst the Working Group were keen to offer volunteer time to support delivery, there was also acknowledgement that they did not have adequate time or systems in place to deliver the whole project.

As a result, LiveBetter Monto developed a funding application that included adequate resourcing (paid project coordinators, development of marketing collateral and general administration) that would ensure the disaster preparedness community event-based project idea would be adequately managed, whilst also engaging the Working Group in aspects of the project to build their know how to enable hosting of community events in the future, and to strengthen this relationship as a future supportive touch point.

### Building region wide knowledge and support networks

The four Neighbourhood Centres in the Burnett Inland partnered on a DR:FR funding application to coordinate staff training in Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) Plans. P-CEP is an inclusive preparedness tool that Neighbourhood Centre staff would then promote broadly as part of regular community engagement events, and ultimately work with individuals to develop unique P-CEP Plans.

The DR:FR program saw strength in this partnership as the approach created efficiencies towards building knowledge across the Burnett Inland region, and also offered an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Centres to strengthen their networks and working relationships so that in times of disaster, opportunities to support each other are more likely and straightforward. This P-CEP project is detailed further in section two of this document.

It is also important to note that both North Burnett Regional Council and Neighbourhood Centre representatives were members of the IAG. Whilst the program ensured that all conflicts were appropriately managed, the IAG mechanism enhanced project outcomes through increasing opportunities for formal and informal collaboration in disaster preparedness efforts. A fantastic example of this was Neighbourhood Centre representatives engaging in training in the Queensland Disaster Management

Arrangements, supported by local councils, so that when developing P-CEP Plans with individuals across the region, they could have increased awareness of formal emergency management protocols and responsibilities.

# Section 2: Learnings from Broader Program

## Activities & Resources to Support Future Effort

### Regional Initiatives

#### Person Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP)

##### *Overview*

South Burnett CTC Inc. delivered a region-wide disaster preparedness initiative across the Burnett Inland, combining accredited Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) training for Neighbourhood Centre staff with direct community engagement, personalised planning and resilience-building activities. With \$200,000 in combined funding, the project strengthened the capability of four Neighborhood Centres and supported vulnerable residents to better understand their risks and prepare for emergencies.

##### *Phase 1: Capability Building*

Staff from four Neighbourhood Centres—Graham House, Nanango Neighbourhood Centre, LiveBetter Community Services and North Burnett Community Service—completed accredited P-CEP training through the University of Sydney, alongside training in the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, to ensure formal disaster management information was integrated into the delivery. This created a shared, consistent framework for supporting vulnerable residents before, during and after disasters.

##### *Phase 2: Community Delivery*

Centres activated their new capability through outreach, events, home visits and one-on-one planning sessions. Staff used P-CEP tools to guide personalised conversations about risks, supports, health needs, mobility, pets and communication preferences. Activities were delivered across multiple towns and outreach locations throughout 2025, with support from local government, emergency services and community groups.

##### *Outcomes*

- Neighbourhood Centres collaborated to embed P-CEP into everyday practice, increasing long-term capacity and consistency.
- 19 staff across four Neighbourhood Centres completed accredited P-CEP training.
- Strengthened cross-sector collaboration improved preparedness pathways and community connectedness across the region.
- Vulnerable residents gained personalised emergency plans and stronger connections to local support services.
- 1,272 community contacts and 83 personalised P-CEP plans were delivered to older people, isolated residents and individuals not previously connected to services.

**“The connections built through P-CEP are essential when disaster does strike. It means people have a point of contact at the Neighbourhood Centre for the right information and an identified connection that could help with the clean up after an event.”**

**“This work has made a meaningful contribution to community safety and preparedness, while reinforcing Nanango Neighbourhood Centre’s role as a trusted, local, person-centred support before, during and after emergencies.”**

### *Links*

To learn more about the benefits of P-CEP, view the video case study on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

Are you interested in a P-CEP Plan for yourself or someone you know? Monto Neighbourhood Centre, Graham House and South Burnett CTC now offer P-CEP planning as part of their services. Reach out to one of these Neighbourhood Centres to discuss P-CEP planning:

- Monto Neighbourhood Centre: Phone: 1800 580 580. Website: <https://livebetter.org.au/child-and-family/monto-community-services/>
- Graham House: Phone: 4169 8400. Website: <https://grahamhouse.org.au/>
- North Burnett Community Services: Phone: 4165 4690. Website: <http://www.nbcs.org.au>
- South Burnett CTC: Phone: 4162 9000. Website: <https://sbctc.com.au/>

## **Disaster Relief Australia Big Map**

### *Overview*

Big Map exercises were delivered to stakeholders and communities in the North Burnett, South Burnett and Cherbourg Local Government areas.

Big Map exercises are a valuable community resilience activity which plays a part in identifying potential risk and hazards. Developed by Disaster Relief Australia, a giant floor map of the area creates opportunity for a community to collaborate and work together to identify risks, share experiences and discuss ways to better prepare for future disaster events.

A ‘Burnett Inland’ 15m x 15m fabric Big Map was created, incorporating the North Burnett, South Burnett, Cherbourg and relevant catchments. This Big Map was then utilised to stimulate collaboration and discussions, firstly at a regional stakeholder event, then at five community sessions, all held in October 2024. The stakeholder session took place in Gayndah with over 30 emergency services, council and other agency representatives. Community sessions were held in Biggenden, Mundubbera, Monto, Kingaroy and Murgon with over 70 attendees across the four sessions.

A Cherbourg-specific 10m x 10m fabric Big Map was also created, with stakeholder and community sessions held in August 2025 in Cherbourg, attended by over 30 people, including Elders, council, emergency services and agency representatives, and community members.

Big Map exercises were identified early in the DR:FR program as a key capacity building, information-sharing and collaboration tools for regional impact, particularly given the whole-of-catchment and all-hazards approach employed by Disaster Relief Australia.

#### *Outcomes*

There were significant outcomes from this regional initiative, including:

- The developed **Burnett Inland Big Map Resilience Report**, which provides key information about the Burnett River catchment, outlines insights, analysis and key points from discussions during the Big Map events, and lists suggested future opportunities.
- The fabric Big Maps, which have been retained in the region as valuable assets for the future. The South Burnett Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group are custodians of the Burnett Inland Regional Big Map and are committed to ensuring broad community and agency access to the Big Map for supported activities that increase disaster preparedness and resilience. The Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council are custodians of the Cherbourg Big Map, which will be used to enhance disaster preparedness planning and coordination.
- Increased understanding of how the catchment functions and of potential future impacts at a Council, agency and community level by those who attended.

**Several residents from Dallarnil and surrounding small localities attended the Big Map event in Biggenden in October 2024. Each of them found the session valuable and engaged in two-way communication with Red Earth, North Burnett Regional Council, Disaster Relief Australia and other agencies in the room, both giving and receiving disaster-related information relevant to the local context.**

#### *Links*

To book the Burnett Inland Regional Big Map, visit South Burnett Regional Council's website - [Emergency Management | South Burnett Regional Council](#)

Check out the DRA Burnett Inland report on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

To learn more about DRA visit [disasterreliefaus.org](https://disasterreliefaus.org)

## Youth Insights Report

### *Overview*

This initiative focused on engaging young people across the Burnett Inland to discuss disaster preparedness and the development of the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland Youth Insights Report**.

Futures Isle were engaged to host youth consultations across the region to better understand how young people experience, understand and imagine disaster preparedness. Over 170 young people were engaged across nine locations.

Through both sentiments shared at community sessions, and during discussions at Internal Advisory Group meetings, the lack of integration of young people with disaster preparedness activities became apparent and a strong support for youth voices to contribute to disaster preparedness planning emerged, with a particular view to gaining insights about how to best engage young people and prepare them for future disaster events.

### *Outcome*

The *Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland Youth Insights Report* was developed to capture the perspectives of young people and translate them into actionable insights for community-aligned investment and advocacy. The report demonstrates that youth engagement directly informed a set of priority themes and big ideas, showing where meaningful progress can be achieved. The themes identified through this process were:

- Practical knowledge is experience-based
- Conversations at home matter
- Social media use is high, but trust is low
- Trusted sources go beyond the internet
- Education needs to be practical, not just scientific

### *Links*

Check out the Youth Insights Report on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

## Australian Disaster Resilience Conference DR:FR Delegations

### *Overview*

The DR:FR program built the capacity of local leaders through attendance at the annual Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC), a national conference that brings together a diverse range of people from different sectors across the country to share knowledge and build connections for a disaster resilient Australia.

In 2024 and 2025, cohorts of community leaders attended ADRC alongside Red Earth and FRRR representatives. Expressions of Interest were open to working group members in each of the six DR:FR communities, with successful applications based on a number of factors, such as disaster-related volunteering and commitment to community leadership.

### *Outcomes*

Community leaders who attended the conference each year said they felt activated to incorporate learnings into their local context and inspired to continue learning about innovative disaster preparedness and response strategies and resources.

Delegate insights included:

- Progress "moves at the speed of trust." Trust – whether it is with community members, or among colleagues – provides a solid foundation to build on.
- The importance of building homes suited to our environment will help mitigate disaster risks.
- Better preparedness – assets, planning, or mental resilience – can help shorten the long recovery journey.

**Two local Dallarnil community leaders, Dom and Bindi, attended both the 2024 and 2025 ADRC as part of the DR:FR Burnett Inland delegation. Dom is the Second Officer and Bindi is the Fourth Officer at the North Dallarnil Rural Fire Brigade. Dom and Bindi are both enthusiastic about disaster preparedness and response because, on top of their lived experience with a fire at their property in 2004, they also experienced and responded to the flash flooding events in Dallarnil in 2022. Dom and Bindi's key insights included:**

- **Increased awareness that recovery can take years for many people and that being better prepared may help with quicker recovery.**
- **Education is key.**
- **The importance of nurturing pathways for the next generation to be volunteers and decision-makers in emergency planning and disaster preparedness.**

### *Links*

To learn more about the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience Conference visit

<https://www.aidr.org.au>

## **Red Earth Resilience Leadership Forum**

### *Overview*

From 2022 – 2024, Red Earth hosted an annual regional in-person Forum that provided space for community members and leaders to come together to start region-wide conversations and develop actions towards co-designing an even better future for the Burnett Inland.

In August 2024, the Forum was aligned with the DR:FR program to increase disaster preparedness and resilience at a regional level. The Forum was hosted with the theme 'Resilience as an Ecosystem', fostering conversation around personal resilience and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Keynote speakers were Paul Ryan (Australian Resilience Centre) and Melanie Bloor (Resilient Uki). There was also a

panel discussion which explored local, regional and national perspectives on disaster preparedness and resilience building.

#### *Outcomes*

Over 60 people from across the Burnett Inland attended the Forum. Survey responses evidencing resilience built through the Forum included:

- 82% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the Forum increased their knowledge about disaster recovery and resilience;
- 95% learnt new information;
- 95% are more likely to increase involvement in their local community;
- 90% met new people and developed new networks;
- 96% were inspired to act on new ideas.

#### *Links*

To read more about the keynote presentations, panel member insights, and 'Big Ideas' that were captured at the Forum, you can view the 2024 Red Earth Regional Leadership Forum Report on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

## **NFP House Capacity Building Workshops**

#### *Overview*

To support local organisations and volunteers, capacity-building workshops were delivered for not-for-profit community groups across the Burnett Inland.

NFP House delivered a two-session workshop in Kumbia, Biggenden and Monto in October 2025. The first session focused on good organisational governance and the second explored volunteer engagement, including how to create a fun and inclusive experience for volunteers.

Through engagement with representatives of numerous community groups, it was clearly identified that effective governance structures and retention/recruitment of volunteers were shared challenges in the region. Local capacity building was also a DR:FR priority due to awareness that if local organisations are stronger in how they operate, they have more ability to support their local communities with the challenges at hand, such as increasing disaster impacts on local communities. NFP House were contracted to deliver workshops across the region.

#### *Outcomes*

Over 40 volunteers, representing a wide range of community groups, attended the workshops, with 79% indicating they found the workshops extremely useful, and 95% responding that they would recommend the workshops to other community groups.

When surveyed about what skills and knowledge volunteers would put into practice straight away, responses included policy development, collaboration with younger people, improved communication strategies, equitable volunteer recognition, creation of task lists, meeting structure and constitution reviews, as well as implementing strategic planning.

**“These workshops have given me the opportunity to look at things differently.” Trevor, Monto**

### *Links*

To learn more about the local value of the NFP House workshops, view the video case study on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

To learn more about NFP House and the services they offer to support not-for-profit organisations, visit their website: [nfphouse.org.au](http://nfphouse.org.au)

## **Climate Trend Conversations Facilitated by Sweltering Cities**

### *Overview*

The DR:FR program hosted an online series of small Climate Trend Conversations for the Burnett Inland, bringing together community members, local councils and service providers to strengthen local disaster resilience. As climate risks intensify, these sessions offered a valuable space for people to connect, share experiences and learn from one another.

Emma Bacon from Sweltering Cities facilitated the discussions, providing insights into the growing impacts of extreme heat and its links with drought, bushfires, storms and rising cost-of-living pressures. Emma also shared examples from Sweltering Cities’ work in Townsville, demonstrating how community-led conversations can build practical awareness and support local adaptation.

Participants described clear shifts in their local climate, including earlier, longer and more intense heat that is affecting routines, sleep and wellbeing—particularly for older residents. They also reflected on lived experiences of floods, storms and bushfires, noting the stress and long recovery periods that follow. Rising temperatures were linked to growing pressures on agriculture, from heat-stressed cattle to increased irrigation costs and impacts on wine production. Many highlighted how these climate changes are becoming harder to manage alongside rising living costs, especially for renters and people unable to modify their homes.

### *Outcomes*

Through the conversations, participants deepened their understanding of local climate impacts, shared adaptations already working well, identified gaps needing attention and generated practical ideas for next steps.

Across all sessions, participants reinforced that the Burnett Inland’s resilience depends on:

- Stronger interpersonal networks
- Respect for local expertise
- Practical, low-tech communication
- Community-led initiatives
- Climate conversations grounded in lived experience rather than politics

An overarching insight: climate resilience in the Burnett Inland will succeed when it is locally driven, relational, and grounded in the everyday realities of the people who live there.

Based on these initial conversation resources were developed by Sweltering Cities to support community members and organisations in continuing these conversations and working towards impactful solutions. The resources include guides to support engagement in climate related data, community conversations prompts and facilitation tips.

#### *Links*

Resources developed by Sweltering Cities can be found on the [DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub](#).

To learn more about Sweltering Cities visit: [swelteringcities.org](http://swelteringcities.org)

## DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub

<https://frrr.org.au/reports/impact-reports/drfr-qld-hub>

# Appendix A:

Community workshops and activities were progressively introduced during the DR:FR initiative, to place the program in the local context, understand the community, local environment and the climate & natural disaster risks, to enable the community to develop and prioritise actions to strengthen their resilience to climate and disaster impacts. This diagram outlines the workshop topics and objectives.



## Prepare

Introduce the DR:FR initiative, explain the timeframe and process, build a group of local community members willing to engage with the DR:FR process to consider ways of building community resilience to climate risks and disasters.



## People

Understand the makeup of the community, map different groups, connections, decision makers, and networks, explore community dynamics through the resilience dimensions, understand changes in community composition (e.g. seasonal workers, transient population, new residents) and consider groups or individuals who might be particularly vulnerable in a disaster.



## Place

Explore the physical extent of the community, as understood by the community, consider the local context of natural and built environment, understand what community critical assets exist, how they are accessed and used, understand natural hazards, climate risks and future challenges.

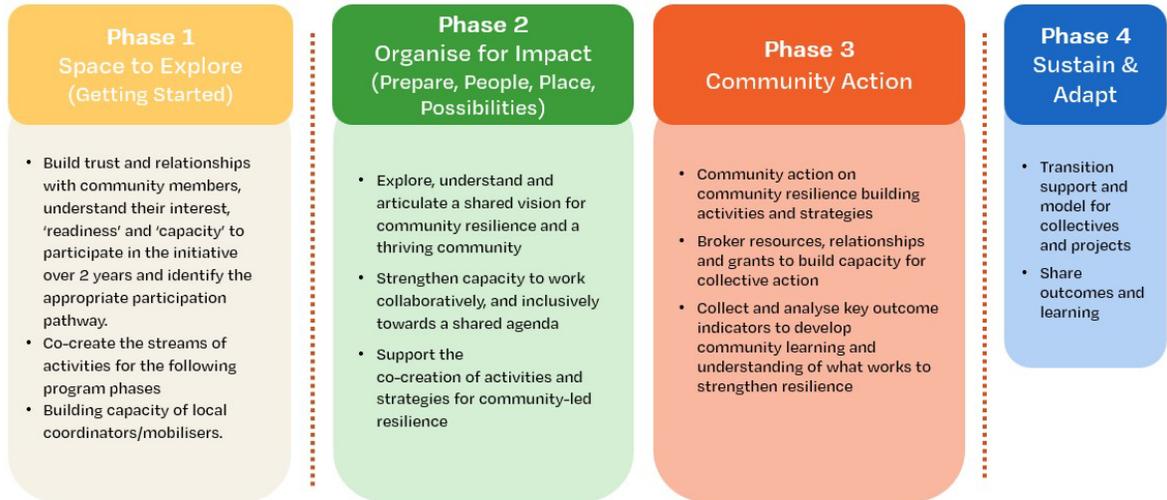


## Possibilities

Generate and develop ideas for initiatives to strengthen community resilience, understanding community capacity and using the resilience dimensions to test and prioritise for action.

# Appendix B: DR:FR Program Framework

## Disaster Resilient : Future Ready Where do communities start and how does it work? (The Phases)



## Phase 2. Organise for Impact and Phase 3. Community Action Community Engagement and Activity

Throughout the project and more intensively through these phases, FRRR works directly or through partners/facilitators with community members and local organisations, supporting them to develop and activate strategic initiatives that enhance community resilience and disaster preparedness by:

- connecting people and organisations, understanding their community and building local capacity to work together.
- building awareness of climate risks, disaster impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Increasing knowledge of resilience principles and how they are applied.
- identifying opportunities and developing ideas for community-led action.
- making decisions and implementing actions prioritized by the community.

