

Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland

Roadmap to Resilience: Tansey



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



Australian Government

Issue Date: March 2026

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

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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: Tansey** document has multiple purposes. Firstly, it serves to document the journey and outcomes of the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready** program in Tansey, 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 Tansey 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.

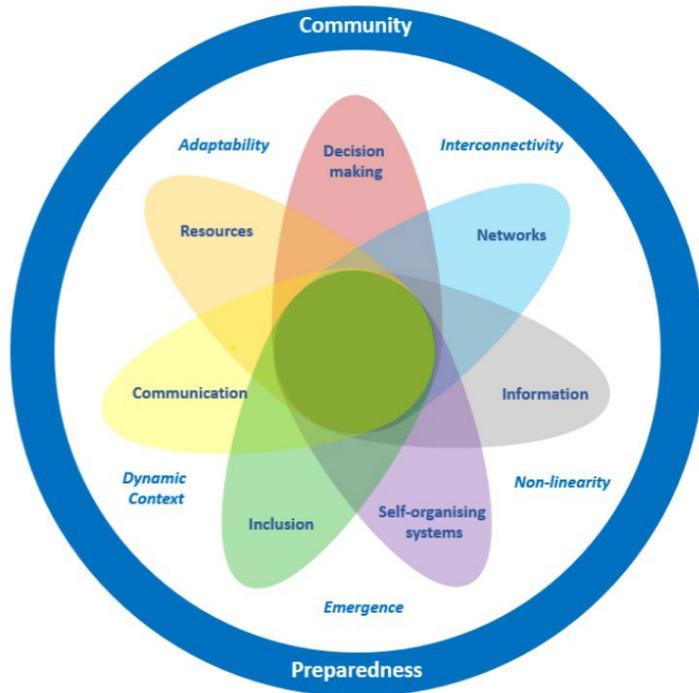
Section C: Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience

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 Tansey 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: Tansey Profile

Tansey is a small rural township located in the Gympie Region, within the state electorate of Nanango and the federal division of Wide Bay. The town lies about 17km north of Goomeri, 24km north-west of Kilkivan, 34km north-east of Murgon, approximately 73km west-north-west of Gympie, and about 239km north-west of Brisbane.

People and Place

- **First Nations:** Wakka Wakka people
- **Population:** 154 (2021 Census)
- **SEIFA:** 15
- **Remoteness:** Outer Regional (RA3)

History and Identity

The town takes its name from selector Michael Tansey, a resident of Lakeview' from 1877.

Community Assets and Services

Key facilities include the Tansey Showgrounds, Tansey Hall and the Tansey Bowls Club. There are some active community groups including the bowls club, tennis club, polocrosse and show society, as well as the newly formed Tansey Progress Association. There are no shops in Tansey township, with residents travelling to Murgon, Gympie, Goomeri and Kingaroy for most supplies. The nearest fuel station is in Goomeri, and with no local doctor, people attend medical appointments in Murgon, Kilkivan or further afield. The nearest hospital is in Murgon. While not based in Tansey, CentaCare, BlueCare, Graham House and KilkivanKare provide services regularly.

There are no schools in Tansey. The nearest schools are Kilkivan State School and Goomeri State School, which both provide P-10 education. For senior secondary education, students generally travel to Murgon State High School or James Nash State High School in Gympie. The nearest kindergarten is in Kilkivan. Local emergency services are based in Goomeri, such as the Urban Fire Brigade, Police and State Emergency Service (SES). There is a Rural Fire Brigade in nearby Boobyjan. The nearest ambulance service is based in Murgon.

Climate and Disaster History

The Tansey area has experienced recurring droughts and major weather events, including the Federation Drought (1895–1902), the Millennium Drought (1997–2009), and severe flooding in January and February

2022 which inundated the community. Other notable events include Ex-Tropical Cyclones Beni (2003), Oswald (2013), Marcia (2015), and Debbie (2017), as well as a tornado in 2018 which caused significant damage.

Disaster Resilience

Tansey falls under the Gympie Regional Council's Disaster Management Plan. The Tansey area is classified as 'not assessed' on the [Australian Disaster Resilience Index](#) however is similar to the nearby Kilkivan area and would be considered 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

Tansey is experiencing a shift in its community makeup, with long-term generational farming families living alongside newer residents who have recently relocated to the area. While this brings diversity, it also highlights vulnerabilities, particularly for newcomers and travellers who may be unfamiliar with the area's significant disaster and weather-related risks—especially the potential for rapid flash flooding.

Volunteer fatigue is evident, particularly following the traumatic 2022 flooding, which had unprecedented speed and water volume, leaving a lasting emotional impact on the community. This event resulted in the tragic loss of a life, several life-threatening situations, emergency services placed at risk, and stranded travellers. Despite securing funding to repair flood damage, the slow progress contributes to the sense that Tansey has not yet fully recovered. The Rural Fire Brigade has lost many members due to the increasing requirements on volunteers. Despite this, Tansey maintains a strong sense of community, demonstrated through regular community nights at the bowls club, the annual LifeFlight charity day and the annual campdraft.

Key challenges include limited participation in some community activities, and the heightened risks faced by travellers and overnight campers who may be unaware of local hazards. Tansey becomes isolated quickly during rain events, making it harder to access support when it is most needed. Reliable communication during emergencies is also a concern, with locals expressing the need for authority to act on local knowledge—such as placing road closure signs when conditions deteriorate. Community members believe that delayed closures contributed to dangerous situations in the 2022 flood. Vulnerable groups include older residents, travellers and newly arrived community members who may require additional support during significant weather or disaster events.

Section F: DR:FR Community Engagement

Red Earth attempted to adopt an agile and responsive approach to community engagement in Tansey to ensure the process remained inclusive, iterative, and community-led.

Engagement began in December 2023 with a series of community sessions then held at the Tansey Bowls Club throughout late 2023 and into 2024. These sessions brought together a cross-section of residents, with attendance ranging from small groups of four or five, to larger gatherings of over 10 people.

Across these sessions, the community worked through a program framework organised by the topics of prepare, people, place and possibilities (see appendices) 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 June 2024, the community had refined and prioritised a set of initiatives, however innovative solutions were required in order to move forward due to there being no community-owned, flood free land in Tansey. In December 2024 a positive meeting was held with Gympie Regional Council, which supported the progression of the locally-identified initiatives.

Throughout 2025, regular engagement continued with a key Tansey community representative, Gympie Regional Council, Red Earth and FRRR. The establishment of the Tansey Progress Association in 2025 has played a pivotal role in moving forward.

The DR:FR program brokered connection between the Tansey Progress Association and the Gympie Regional Council to ensure that formal disaster management considerations were incorporated into resources, information and project outcomes.

Section G: Localised Reflection on Critical Dimensions

Networks: Tansey has strong formal networks, including the Tansey Bowls Club, Tansey Show Society, Tansey Tennis Club and Polocrosse. While everyone pulls together in times of crisis, it is noted that local organisations tend to operate as silos. The Tansey Progress Association has also recently been established.

Information: There is extensive local knowledge in Tansey, and it is important to the community to share that local knowledge with others – particularly those travelling through or staying overnight, as they may not be aware of the potential disaster impacts. This local knowledge helped inform the information that is featured on the community noticeboard and book exchange.

Self-organising Systems: Self-organising Systems shine through in Tansey during disaster response, and during the recovery phase. Community members organise themselves and others, as they are likely to be isolated for three to four days.

Inclusion: Tansey is aware of the vulnerable people within the community and actively takes them into consideration when planning disaster preparedness strategies, i.e. how to provide information in an accessible way.

Communication: While there is some communication between community groups, it is hoped the establishment of the Tansey Progress Association will enable improved communications between organisations and community members.

Resources, Tools and Support: Tansey has a proven ability to draw on local skills, knowledge, effort and time to activate collective action in times of disaster, as well as the ability to obtain significant financial support for disaster-related community infrastructure repairs.

Decision Making: Tansey has, historically, felt somewhat forgotten when it comes to inclusive decision-making. Tansey has a strong collective community voice and hopes to broker connection with the Gympie Regional Council in order for some inclusive decision-making to be activated.

Section H: Tansey 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 Tansey reflects on this statement over time, so that it can evolve to reflect the changing nature of community life.

“Tansey is a safe community in times of disaster. Locals support each other and have the resources and essential supplies to be self-sufficient during times of isolation. People in the Tansey community have good avenues of communication with locals, travellers and emergency services, with systems in place to inform as many people as possible about impending impacts. Tansey is a community that bounces back quickly.”

Section I: DR:FR Funded Initiatives

Disaster Resilient Tansey

Lead organisation: Tansey Progress Association

This initiative aims to enhance disaster readiness by fostering community cohesion, information sharing, and confidence. Key activities include establishing communication tools such as a newsletter, signage, and a public book exchange that incorporates disaster information. It also involves acquiring a shipping container stocked with recovery supplies and supporting the Tansey Progress Association in securing flood-free land through council leasing, development approvals, and landscaping. Additionally, the initiative helps the newly formed lead organisation build operational systems and explore sustainable revenue streams to continue promoting collaboration and effective disaster management across local groups.

Project Partners

Tansey Progress Association, Gympie Regional Council, Red Earth Community Foundation and FRRR.

Outcomes:

Likely Outcomes: The project has boosted Tansey's resilience by combining formal disaster guidance with local knowledge. Through the newsletter, noticeboard and public book exchange, residents and travellers are now better informed about hazards, helping people take timely action and stay connected during extreme weather events.

Section J: Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Rationale

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

The development of a community newsletter is fundamentally a **Self-organising System** as it will be activated through volunteer contribution of skills, knowledge, effort and time by the Tansey Progress Association and the input by other local organisations into the future. The establishment of a book exchange is also designed with local understanding of leveraging tourist traffic. The establishment of the essential supplies shipping container also provides agency for community to activate recovery efforts.

Development certification, lease of flood-free land, land preparation, and purchase of a shipping container, generators, chainsaws, tarps, tools, personal protective equipment and associated delivery will equip the Tansey community with **Resources, Tools and Support** to activate recovery efforts. Organisation mentoring for Tansey Progress Association through NFP House will all offer the operational support required to maintain sustainability of local networks and disaster preparedness efforts.

These initiatives also amplify both **Information** and **Communication** through sharing both local knowledge and formal disaster management messaging with the wider community via the community noticeboard, newsletter and signage at the book exchange.

These initiatives also have a strong focus on **Inclusion** due to their consideration of vulnerable people, newcomers and travellers to ensure access to relevant formal and informal disaster information.

Section K: Community Sentiments for the Future

- Increased and ongoing communication with Council and LDMG to support disaster preparedness measures including activation of timely road closures.

Tansey Disaster Management Information

A key source of information for the Tansey community is Gympie Regional Council.

For information about how to prepare for the next disaster, community members can visit Council's Disasters and Emergencies section on their website: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/disasters-emergencies>.

For up-to-date information during a disaster, go directly to Council’s Disaster Dashboard:

<https://disaster.gympie.qld.gov.au/>

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 “it 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 (P-CEP) 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 DR:FR local community consultation in Dallarnil and Kalpower, with reference to roadmaps noted in North Burnett 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.

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.

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 (DRA), 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 DRA.

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.

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](#)

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 Tansey community leaders attended the national Australian Disaster Resilience Conference; Rachael in 2024, and Angela in 2025. Each of them found the conference to be inspiring and a great way to connect local volunteers to national knowledge and innovative ideas in the disaster space. Their key takeaways were:

“It is important to rebuild better.” Rachael

“It is essential to involve youth in the preparedness, recovery and disaster response space, bringing them into the conversation and inviting them to be part of the solution.” Rachael

“Hearing people’s stories helps gain different perspectives.” Angela

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 event better future for the Burnett Inland.

In August 2024, the Forum was aligned with the DR:FR program to increase disaster preparedness and resilience 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.

Local Tansey community leader Rachael Lehmann was one of the panelists on the Disaster Resilience Leadership Lounge session at the 2024 Red Earth Leadership Forum. The Forum's theme was Resilience, and the panel session focused on disaster preparedness from a local, state and national perspective. Rachael was awarded Gympie Regional Council's inaugural Australia Day Resilience Award for her flood recovery efforts in Tansey.

"Community is important. Resources are essential. Trust yourself and step up as a leader." Rachael Lehmann, Tansey Community Leader at the Red Earth Leadership Forum, August 2024

Links

To read more about the keynote presentations, panel member insights, and 'Big Ideas' that were captured at the Forum, you can view or download 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: <https://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](#).

Learn more about Sweltering Cities here: <https://swelteringcities.org>

DR:FR Burnett Inland Resources Hub

<https://frrr.org.au/reports/impact-reports/drfr-qlld-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.

