

National Disaster Resilience Strategy

Rautaki ā-Motu Manawaroa Aitūā

We all have a role in a disaster resilient nation

He wāhanga tō tātau katoa i roto i te iwi manawaroa aitūā

SUMMARY VERSION



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

National Disaster Resilience Strategy

The following provides a summary of the National Disaster Resilience Strategy, a 10 year strategy made under the civil defence emergency management Act. The summary provides an introduction to the intent and purpose of the Strategy, an overview of the key points, and tailored recommendations for different groups in society.

Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of this Strategy is to outline the vision and long-term goals for civil defence emergency management (CDEM) in New Zealand. CDEM in New Zealand is governed by the CDEM Act, which:

- promotes the sustainable management of hazards in a way that contributes to safety and wellbeing;
- encourages wide participation, including communities, in the process to manage risk;
- provides for planning and preparation for emergencies, and for response and recovery;
- requires local authorities to co-ordinate reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities through regional groups;
- provides a basis for the integration of national and local planning and activity through a national strategy and plan; and
- encourages coordination across a wide range of agencies, recognising that emergencies are multi-agency events affecting all parts of society.

This reflects an overarching intent for a resilient New Zealand.

This is important because New Zealanders are, and will continue to be, at risk from a broad range of hazards.

Many of the risks we face both now and in the future can be readily identified. However, we also need to recognise that the future is uncertain: significant, unexpected, and hard-to-predict events are inevitable. The further we probe into the future, the deeper the level of uncertainty we encounter. Within this uncertain future environment, resilience is an important requirement for success. Resilience is the ability to anticipate and resist disruptive events, minimise adverse impacts, respond effectively, maintain or recover functionality, and adapt in a way that allows for learning and thriving. In essence, it's about developing a wide zone of tolerance – the ability to remain effective across a range of future conditions.

Given our risk landscape, and the uncertainty of the wider domestic and global environment, it is important for us to take deliberate steps to improve our resilience and protect the prosperity and wellbeing – of individuals, communities, businesses, our society, the economy, and the nation as a whole.

We can do much to reduce our risks, through both a risk management approach, and to build our broader societal resilience. We can also ensure we have effective processes in place for responding to and recovering from emergencies and other types of disruption when they do happen.

The Strategy sets out what we as New Zealanders expect of a resilient New Zealand, and what we want to achieve over the next 10 years. It explicitly links resilience to the protection and growth of living standards for all New Zealanders, and promotes a wide, whole-of-society, participatory and inclusive approach.

The Strategy provides the vision and strategic direction, including priorities and objectives for increasing New Zealand's resilience to disasters. The detail of *how* those objectives are to be achieved sits in a roadmap of actions, alongside other related key documents including the *National CDEM Plan and Guide*, the *National Security Handbook*, CDEM Group plans, and a range of other supporting policies and plans.

Intended audience and use of the Strategy

This Strategy is for all New Zealanders, and all those who live, work or visit here.

It is intended to provide a common agenda for resilience that individual organisations, agencies, and groups can align with for collective impact.

Central government, local government, businesses, organisations, and iwi can use the Strategy to guide them in building resilience both for their own organisation, and for the people and communities they support or provide services for.

Hapū and community organisations can use the Strategy to support community wellbeing and resilience, and to understand the wider network of agencies and organisations working towards common goals.

Individuals, families and whānau can use the Strategy to prompt thinking on their own resilience, and what they can do to ensure they and their dependants, including animals, are prepared for disruption and emergencies. Emergency management in New Zealand is still based, first and foremost, on a principle of self-reliance; individuals and communities must be able to care for themselves and each other, as much as possible, when the normal functions of daily life are disrupted. This Strategy provides guidance for building resilience over the long term, as well as hopefully giving assurance about the wider network of organisations supporting individuals, households and whānau at a community, local, regional, and national level.

All readers are encouraged to consider what this Strategy means for them, their family/whānau, community or hapū, business or organisation, and what they can do to contribute to their own resilience or the resilience of others. Some tailored recommendations are provided.

National Disaster Resilience Strategy

Rautaki ā-Motu Manawaroa Aitūā

Working together to manage risk and build resilience

Our Vision

New Zealand is a disaster resilient nation that acts proactively to manage risks and build resilience in a way that contributes to the wellbeing and prosperity of all New Zealanders.

Our Goal

To strengthen the resilience of the nation by managing risks, being ready to respond to and recover from emergencies, and by enabling, empowering and supporting individuals, organisations, and communities to act for themselves and others, for the safety and wellbeing of all.

We will do this through:

1 Managing Risks

2 Effective Response to and Recovery from Emergencies

3 Enabling, Empowering, and Supporting Community Resilience

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and understand risk scenarios (including the components of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity), and use this knowledge to inform decision-making
2. Put in place organisational structures and identify necessary processes – including being informed by community perspectives – to understand and act on reducing risks
3. Build risk awareness, risk literacy, and risk management capability, including the ability to assess risk
4. Address gaps in risk reduction policy (particularly in the light of climate change adaptation)
5. Ensure development and investment practices, particularly in the built and natural environments, are risk-aware, taking care not to create any unnecessary or unacceptable new risk
6. Understand the economic impact of disaster and disruption, and the need for investment in resilience; identify and develop financial mechanisms that support resilience activities
7. Ensure that the safety and wellbeing of people is at the heart of the emergency management system
8. Build the relationship between emergency management organisations and iwi/groups representing Māori, to ensure greater recognition, understanding, and integration of iwi/Māori perspectives and tikanga in emergency management
9. Strengthen the national leadership of the emergency management system to provide clearer direction and more consistent response to and recovery from emergencies
10. Ensure it is clear who is responsible for what, nationally, regionally, and locally, in response and recovery; enable and empower community-level response, and ensure it is connected into wider coordinated responses, when and where necessary
11. Build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce for response and recovery
12. Improve the information and intelligence system that supports decision-making in emergencies to enable informed, timely, and consistent decisions by stakeholders and the public
13. Enable and empower individuals, households, organisations, and businesses to build their resilience, paying particular attention to those people and groups who may be disproportionately affected by disasters
14. Cultivate an environment for social connectedness which promotes a culture of mutual help; embed a collective impact approach to building community resilience
15. Take a whole of city/district/region approach to resilience, including to embed strategic objectives for resilience in key plans and strategies
16. Address the capacity and adequacy of critical infrastructure systems, and upgrade them as practicable, according to risks identified
17. Embed a strategic, resilience approach to recovery planning that takes account of risks identified, recognises long-term priorities and opportunities to build back better, and ensures the needs of the affected are at the centre of recovery processes
18. Recognise the importance of culture to resilience, including to support the continuity of cultural places, institutions and activities, and to enable the participation of different cultures in resilience

What can I do?

He aha he mahi māku?

Individuals and families/whānau Te tangata me ngā whānau



Understand your risk

Be aware of the hazards or disruptions you could experience, your exposure – the things you have that are at risk from those disruptions, and your vulnerability – how you and your things might be adversely affected.

Reduce your risk factors

Think about the range of ways you could reduce your exposure or vulnerability, and invest in doing so where possible.

Future proof where possible

When making new purchases, think about how to future-proof yourself and build in resilience.

Stay informed

Talk to others about risk and resilience; find out the different ways you can stay informed during an emergency and how to receive alerts and warnings.

Prepare yourself and your household

Think about the range of impacts that could occur from emergencies (for example, power, water, or communications outages, access or transport issues, the need to stay in or out of your home for an extended period). Think about the things you would want or need to have available to you during that time. Remember to include animals in your emergency preparedness.

Plan for disruption

Consider how you would meet up with family/whānau and friends if there was a communications outage or access issues.

Know your neighbours

Get to know your neighbours and participate in your community – you are each other's front line.

Businesses and organisations Ngā pakihi me ngā whakahaere



Understand your risk

Be aware of the hazards or disruptions you could experience, how your assets (people and capital) might be impacted and the strengths and resources available to manage those disruptions.

Make resilience a strategic objective and embed it in appropriate actions, plans and strategies

The continuity of your business (and the wellbeing of the people that rely on your products/services) depends on it.

Invest in organisational resilience

Reduce and manage the factors that are contributing to your risk. Ensure comprehensive business continuity planning, and consider building your ability to respond to the unexpected.

Seek assurances about supply chain resilience

Seek specific advice and assurances from suppliers as to their business continuity plans, stock carrying policies, exposure to non-supply and supply chain alert processes.

Benefit today, benefit tomorrow

Try to find crisis/disaster preparedness solutions that have

everyday benefits for your organisation. As well as being prepared for tomorrow, you will have a better organisation today.

Consider your social impact

Consider how you can contribute to the resilience of your community, city or district. As well as helping your community, you will also be reducing the risks to your organisation of being disrupted.

Keep the long term in mind

Consider the longer-term changes in your environment, for example the impact of climate change, and how you can position your organisation to see these changes as an opportunity.

Collaborate with others and build your network

Find others with similar objectives in respect of risk and resilience, and collaborate with them – we are stronger together, and you have much to contribute and gain.

Learn about response and recovery

Understand how response and recovery will work in your district or area of interest, and build your own capacity to respond to and recover from disruption.

Communities and hapū Ngā hapori me ngā hapū



Understand your risk

Seek to build a collective understanding of your risks: the hazards or disruptions you could face, your collective exposure in terms of people, animals, property, and assets, and your vulnerabilities – how these could be adversely affected.

Reduce your risk factors

Consider whether there are ways to reduce your community's exposure or vulnerabilities – it needn't cost money, but there may be options if it does.

Keep the long-term in mind

Consider the longer-term changes in your environment, for example, the impact of climate change, and what you can do about them.

Benefit today, benefit tomorrow

Try to find risk reduction, readiness, and resilience solutions that have an everyday benefit to your community. As well as being prepared for tomorrow, you will have a richer community today.

Learn about response and recovery

Understand how response to and recovery from emergencies will work in your city or district.

Understand your collective resources

Think about what resources you have, now or in an emergency, and how you could put them to work.

Make a plan and practice it

Community response and recovery planning helps communities understand how they can help each other after a disaster. Ask your local emergency management office for help if you need it, and practice any plans, as practicable.

Organise community events

Communities who know each other are stronger communities – in good times and in bad.

Cities and districts Ngā tāonenui me ngā takiwā



Understand your risk

Identify and understand hazards and disruptions you could face, and the willingness and ability of your community to cope with disruption.

Organise for resilience

Consider whether your governance of risk and resilience is fit for purpose. Engage all interested parties and take a whole-of-city/district approach.

Make resilience a strategic objective

Make resilience a core strategic objective: the economic prosperity of your city/district, and the wellbeing of your communities depend on it.

Lead, promote, and champion

Lead, promote, and champion city/district-wide investment in resilience. Ensure resilience objectives are embedded in economic development plans and initiatives.

Tackle gaps in hazard risk management policy

Tackle gaps in hazard risk management policy, including matters of retreat or relocation from high risk areas, and adaptation to climate change.

Pursue resilient urban development

Pursue resilient urban development including risk-aware land-use decisions, and urban design and growth that incorporates resilience.

Increase infrastructure resilience

Assess risk, and ensure the resilience of critical assets and continuity of essential services.

Safeguard natural buffers

Utilise the protective functions offered by natural ecosystems wherever practicable.

Strengthen financial capacity

Understand the economic impact of disasters in your area, and the need for investment in resilience. Identify and develop financial mechanisms that can support resilience activities.

Strengthen societal capacity

Cultivate an environment for social connectedness which promotes a culture of mutual help. Support and enable grassroots efforts and organisations. Support diversity and promote inclusion.

Invest in organisational resilience

Ensure you have comprehensive business continuity planning in place, and consider and build your ability to respond to the unexpected.

Build capability and capacity for response and recovery

Ensure your capability and capacity is not just fit-for-purpose, but future-ready and adaptable.

Government and national organisations Kāwanatanga me ngā whakahaere ā-motu



Organise for resilience

Participate in mechanisms for the coordination of risk and resilience activity, and the implementation of this Strategy.

Monitor, assess and publicly report

Regularly report on:

1. risks and risk management,
2. economic loss from disasters,
3. resilience, and
4. progress on the Strategy.

Champion resilience

Promote the importance of resilience, including whole-of-society approaches, and the key values, principles, and priorities of the Strategy.

Make resilience easy

Create policies and legislation that enable and encourage resilient behaviours. Make it easy, affordable, common-sense, and familiar for clients, stakeholders, partners, decision-makers, and the public.

Tackle our complex risks

Tackle and progress some of the most complex risks facing society, including approaches for addressing risk in the highest hazard communities, and adapting to climate change.

Work together

Find others with similar objectives in respect of risk and resilience, and align policy and practice.

Invest in organisational resilience

Understand risk scenarios, including what is driving high risk ratings for your organisation and/or clients. Reduce and manage the factors that are causing your risk. Ensure comprehensive business continuity planning. Consider and build your ability to respond to the unexpected.

Invest in societal resilience

Consider societal needs and values, before, during, and after emergencies. Ensure investments are multi-purpose for stronger communities today, and in case of emergency.

Build capability and capacity for response and recovery

Ensure emergency management capability and capacity is not just fit-for-purpose, but future-ready and adaptable.

Ensure that the safety and wellbeing of people is at the heart of managing emergencies

Ensure that in emergencies the safety, needs, and wellbeing of affected people are the highest priority. Support and enable grassroots efforts and organisations. Promote inclusion and diversity.

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For more information, visit www.civildefence.govt.nz

