

## Strategic Direction 1

# Supporting resilient communities through risk reduction

### Overview

Climate change is influencing the frequency, scale and intensity of natural hazards and driving the creation of new hazards and disaster risks that compromise the stability of natural, social, built and economic environments.

Australia has developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) and National Action Plan as its response to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, that Australia is a signatory to. The NDRRF recognises that reducing disaster risk is critical to supporting communities and economies to be resilient. This builds on the significant progress made across all sectors in Australia since the release of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience in 2011.

Fire and emergency services agencies are well placed to provide leadership and to collaborate with governments, business, communities, educational institutions, and individuals to develop strategies and take action to reduce disaster risk and support resilient communities, through mitigation, influencing policy and regulatory change, and education and engagement.

### Fire and emergency services will enhance resilient communities by:

1. **Supporting exposed and vulnerable communities** to prepare and adapt to the increased frequency and severity of natural hazards due to climate change.
2. **Integrating a systemic approach to climate and disaster risk** to address the escalating impacts of climate change on exposed and vulnerable communities and the environment.
3. **Partnering and collaborating across sectors** to share, use and promote community level knowledge and skills, build understanding, and strengthen collective impact for risk reduction and resilience.
4. **Enhancing the effectiveness of community education and engagement programs** through collaboration and evidence-based practice, with a focus on inclusion and participation.
5. **Supporting disaster resilience education and collaborative approaches** to engagement with children and young people in schools and other settings, with a focus on place-based learning, student agency and local action.
6. **Advocating for and promoting effective risk mitigation measures** in the built environment through strengthening regulations, policies and Standards.
7. **Influencing effective land use planning decisions** that mitigate disaster risk and loss.
8. **Supporting community-centred recovery** as an opportunity to enhance resilience across the social, built, natural and economic environments.
9. **Improving the resilience of Australia and New Zealand's landscapes** through an understanding of the role of fire in the landscape and implementing sustainable fire and land management practices.