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## **GLOBAL BLUEPRINTS FOR CHANGE**

**First Edition--Prepared in conjunction with the International Workshop on  
Disaster Reduction convened on August 19-22, 2001**

The Global Blueprints for Change contain guidance for working together to improve the capability to identify indicators of physical, social, enterprise, and environmental vulnerabilities throughout the world and to select and implement realistic solutions to reduce them towards acceptable levels.

**Theme A: LIVING WITH NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS  
Topic A.6: Improving Emergency Management**

**“Improving Emergency Management in Australia”**

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**DISCLAIMER:** This manuscript was prepared as a contribution to the first edition of the Global Blueprints for Change and for use in conjunction with the International Workshop on Disaster Reduction convened on 19-22 August 2001 in Reston, VA. The manuscript is a "work in progress" and has not been edited for policy and for conformity with the other Blueprints.

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## IMPROVING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

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**Abstract:** This Blueprint for Change will provide guidance, on the basis of experience in South Wales, Australia, for improving the professional practice of emergency management throughout the world. Improvement is urgently needed because disasters over time are becoming more frequent, more devastating, and more complex than in the past. Many natural and environmental disasters have regional, national, and international ripple effects and adverse consequences in addition to the obvious local impacts and consequences; therefore, it is imperative for communities to maintain critical skills and to develop new and improved skills in order to protect people and property and to cope with all the potential impacts of disasters.

**The principal issues include:**

- a) Establishing protocols for cooperation and collaboration among different local, regional, and international public- and private-sector groups,
- b) Enhancing local, regional, national, and international competencies, and
- c) Using new technologies for search and rescue, emergency services reconstruction, and workforce recovery.

**Vision:** The vision is a Blueprint for Change that will provide guidance for improving the professional practice of emergency management in communities throughout the world. The goal is for the world to undertake disaster-mitigation measures to reduce personal, social, economic, and environmental impacts of disasters.

Prepared from the viewpoint of Australia, the aim of this Blueprint is to describe the scope of an effective disaster mitigation strategy and to map the way for moving ahead. The goal is to bring together a wide range of representatives from professional disciplines, government at all levels, academia, insurance and peak bodies, and to establish protocols for cooperation and collaboration among different local, regional, national and international competencies.

**Recommendation:** This Blueprint proposes a **Disaster Mitigation Strategy (DMS)** to improve disaster mitigation globally and thereby reduce the devastating effects of disasters to the community. While there are many examples of effective disaster mitigation strategies around the world, all communities are still vulnerable to the risks of disaster. In some areas, disaster risks are increasing.

The Blueprint describes the concept and principles of disaster mitigation, argues the case for integration of cost-effective mitigation measures through a DMS and provides an outline of what such a strategy could entail.

Subject to stakeholder support, the following DMS development structure is proposed:

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- The establishment of a working group/s to proceed with the detailed development of the DMS;
  - The establishment of parallel local/regional/state/national mitigation committees to manage disaster-mitigation strategies in each local/regional/state/national area;
  - The establishment of national (and possibly state/regional) level expert groups to develop mitigation strategies including the development of best practice guidelines and associated activities.

**Current Status:** In Australia, a **Mitigation Working Party** has been formed to assist in the development of the National Framework. It comprises representation from all states and territories and from important stakeholders in mitigation, such as the Institution of Engineers, Local Government, the Master Builders Association, and State and Territory government emergency management agencies. Like Australia, other countries may wish to develop working parties like this to improve their DMS.

The Mitigation Working Party promotes a risk management approach for safer, sustainable communities. Within this context, the role of the Mitigation Working Party is to progress national efforts towards the reduction of emergency and disaster risk through 'measures taken in advance of an emergency or disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment'. The Working Party also recognizes an important link between post-impact recovery and mitigation in that recovery activities can reduce the risk of recurrent emergencies or disasters.

**Conclusions:** This Blueprint should assist local and states bodies identify agencies that could be consulted to obtain specific advice on prevention and mitigation measures across a range of hazards. Based on Australia's model, which works well, a template can be developed and worked upon by all countries.

The following charts demonstrate the simplicity of following a pattern or "Blueprint" to effectively improve emergency management across a country and across the world. Such an approach will improve all communications between local, regional, and nationally communities, so we can all together speak the one emergency language.

## References

1. Emergency Management Australia, Disaster Mitigation.
2. Charles Sturt University, Bachelor of Social Science (Emergency Management) student guides.
3. Australian Institute of Emergency Management "Emergency Response", Magazine, Edition 3, 1998.



HAZARD ("All hazards" and then by specific hazard)	ACTIVITY	OUTPUT REEQUIRED
All hazards	<p>Development of National policy to promote a sound framework for disaster mitigation</p> <p>Advice, briefing, and support to the Nation on disaster mitigation matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of mitigation measures on an agency and interagency basis through a Counter Disaster Task Force</li> <li>● Development of a national framework for prevention and mitigation and supporting strategies</li> <li>● National Disaster Relief arrangements provisions for mitigation as a prerequisite for assistance</li> </ul>
Geological (eg earthquakes)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research, analysis, policies and programs on geohazards</li> </ul>
Technological (eg, industrial/hazardous materials incident, utility failure, occupational hazard)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maritime safety, maritime and aviation search and rescue, marine environment protection services</li> <li>● Civil aviation safety regulations, standards and advice</li> <li>● Policy relating to transport hazardous materials, road infrastructure policy, standards and guidelines for national highway construction</li> <li>● Environmental policy and legislation with respect to environmental impacts, hazardous materials, climate change and natural heritage management</li> <li>● Road, rail, marine, and air transport accident occurrence, investigation and research</li> <li>● Technological and scientific advice pertaining to nuclear safety</li> <li>● Coordination of national efforts to reduce occupational injury and disease by providing healthy and safe working environments</li> </ul>

<p>Meteorological (eg. storms, cyclones, typhoons, flood)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policies, services, and research on meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic hazards</li> <li>● Long term floodplain management in rural areas with natural resources focus</li> <li>● Flood mitigation in rural and regional areas</li> </ul>
<p>Terrorism</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Development of national capability for countering terrorism</li> </ul>
<p>Human Disease Epidemics</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Human quarantine and communicable disease outbreak surveillance and management policy</li> </ul>
<p>Animal/Plant Disease and/or infestation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Control strategies for designated animal and plant diseases</li> <li>● Quarantine and inspection services</li> </ul>



<p>All hazards</p> <p>Geological</p> <p>Meteorological/ Flood</p> <p>Technological</p> <p>Animal/Plant Disease and/or Infestation</p>	<p>Vulnerability reduction – non- structural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landuse planning</li> <li>• Building regulation/compliance (design, standards, use)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of best practice information and knowledge base with the aim that developments are tailored to or restricted from unsuitable areas</li> <li>• Advice on land-use planning</li> <li>• Advice on land-use planning</li> <li>• Promotion of uniform regulations relating to the transport of hazardous materials</li> <li>• Regulation of air lanes</li> <li>• Regulation of telecommunications</li> <li>• Development of national workplace safety standards and codes of practice</li> <li>• Minimisation spread of disease/species</li> </ul>
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All hazards	<p>Vulnerability reduction – structural measures which provide physical protection against impact of disasters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Natural/cultural heritage</li> <li>• Lifelines/infrastructures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of best practice information</li> <li>• Heritage listed sites</li> </ul>
Geological		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of earthquake resistant building design</li> </ul>
Meteorological/ Flood		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of building design standards resistant to meteorological hazards</li> <li>• Funding for rural and regional flood mitigation</li> <li>• Funding for non-structural mitigation measures</li> <li>• Funding for rural mitigation focussed resource management</li> </ul>
Wildfire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of building standards resistant to wildfire</li> </ul>
Structural Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building design standards and design of fire safety equipment including smoke detectors</li> </ul>
Technological		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of telecommunications</li> </ul>





All hazards	Recovery planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on planning which enables the impacted community to recover as fully and quickly as possible</li> <li>• Natural Disaster Relief Arrangement</li> <li>• Disaster payments</li> </ul>
All hazards	Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation of the insurance industry in Australia</li> <li>• Promoting improved industry standards</li> </ul>
<p>All hazards</p> <p>Meteorological/ Flood</p> <p>Technological</p> <p>Animal/plant Disease and/or infestation</p>	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For career and volunteer emergency management personnel</li> <li>• For other emergency management disciplines (land-use planners, engineers, teachers etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency management practitioners with knowledge of best practice for dealing with events</li> <li>• An awareness of disaster mitigation concepts and principles for professionals in related fields</li> <li>• Disaster medicine training</li> <li>• Meteorological training for forecasters and emergency managers as appropriate</li> <li>• Design, accreditation or provision of training for managers and emergency personnel in dealing with hazardous materials incidents</li> <li>• Accreditation of occupational health and safety courses</li> <li>• Quarantine training</li> <li>• Principles and recognition of exotic diseases</li> <li>• Preparation of field guides</li> </ul>
All hazards	<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard research</li> <li>• Vulnerability research</li> <li>• Standards development</li> <li>• Applications of new technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of knowledge base to be drawn upon by emergency management practitioners</li> <li>• Development and promotion of new technologies and procedures to enhance</li> </ul>

<p>Geological</p> <p>Meteorological/ Flood</p> <p>Technological</p>		<p>emergency management capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct hazard studies related to chronic hazards and development of databases of historic hazard impacts</li> <li>• Develop databases of tropical cyclones, severe storms etc</li> <li>• Conduct studies related to development of new technologies for marine pollution response</li> </ul>
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<p>All hazards</p> <p>Meteorological/ Flood</p> <p>Animal/plant Disease and/or infestation</p>	<p>Sources of project funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for mitigation related projects</li> <li>• Mitigation studies/risk assessment</li> <li>• Regional Flood Mitigation Program</li> <li>• Other project funding</li> <li>• Funding for specific</li> </ul>
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