

Resilience Tour

During October and November 2022, we held workshops with community members across the Shire. The purpose of the Community Resilience Scorecard Project is to support people, communities, organisations and businesses to understand their risks and role, and encourage resilience actions to improve community outcomes after natural hazards.

What did we learn?

Some of the insights we heard were:

- the community is generally aware of where to access disaster information
- low volunteerism rates in the community – everyone is really busy already especially business owners and people working in the tourism industry
- there is personal lived experiences with the 1979 Flagstaff Hill landslide
- cut roads (e.g., the Captain Cook Highway) disrupt supply chains and create food insecurity
- residents appreciate that due to the single road in and out, they need to be prepared to shelter in place or decide to leave very early as otherwise roads were blocked or closed
- concerns about the new residents who haven't experienced a big wet or cyclone before and complacency amongst others transfers risk and responsibility to emergency services or neighbours
- there has been a large turnover of residents recently and a growing trend of absentee landlords, especially in holiday apartments.
- high numbers of non-resident visitors or short term residents adds to risk because they are not sure what to do

During the workshop we were joined by Fire and Rescue officers and Douglas Shire Council staff who spoke with attendees about the 'behind the scenes' emergency and disaster management functions of Fire and Rescue Services and Council's Local Disaster Management Group.

We learned that that not all community members feel the same about natural hazards. New members of the community expressed that they were nervous every season about damaging weather, while others were less concerned and expressed that they 'do what they can'. When thinking about the Port Douglas and Craiglie community, residents believed that there was more they could do to be better prepared and more resilient to natural hazards at individual, household and neighbourhood levels.

Next steps

The scorecards are being drafted and will include the stories shared at the workshops. The scorecards will inform updates to the Douglas Local Disaster Management Plan.

What if I missed the first round of workshops?

If you were unable to attend our 2022 workshops and can add to what we learned, please email disaster@douglas.qld.gov.au.

A second round of engagement to present the draft scorecards is planned for April/May 2023. Please register contact details disaster@douglas.qld.gov.au if you would like to be informed about the dates.

For more information, please visit Council's website (scan the QR code or douglas.qld.gov.au/douglas-community-disaster-resilience-strategy) to learn more about the Community Resilience Scorecards project or call 1800 026 318

