




NIMBIN

COMMUNITY

DISASTER PLAN

Source: Darcy Grant

Building our resilience to future disasters – April 2021



Since the beginning of creation and since the beginning of time our Creator Njadjanggali gave our Ancestors, the Widjabul Wia-bul traditional owners, this Mother land to look after, nurture, walk & become one in spirit with her and all creation, protecting all that she gives life to and abiding by the lore of this land Widjabul Wia-bul Country. Bugalbeh.

Cindy Roberts

Acknowledgement of Country

The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land over which this document was prepared, the Widjabal/Wiabal people of the Bundjalung Nation, and we pay our respect to all Aboriginal people of this land and to Elders past, present and future.

Through understanding the significant knowledge and practice of Caring for Country by traditional custodians of the land, together we can build a more resilient and prosperous community.



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Introduction

Nimbin and surrounds is a unique area mostly due to the community style settlements fostered by the alternative lifestyle movement of the 1970s. Its colonial past is that of a dairy farming region both strongly self-reliant and hardworking. Since the 1970s it has developed into a unique, inclusive, vibrant, environmentally focused community as well.

It is surrounded by three World Heritage listed rainforests and is one of the most biodiverse areas in Australia. Our community passionately values our exceptional environment and identifies strongly with it.

Nimbin is a special place with its own problems and its own solutions. It is at once both isolated in terms of services and patterns of living and yet strongly connected through community organisations and the collective ownership. Few other places in Australia require a plan as specific and yet dynamic and malleable as the people of Nimbin.

The way of living which has developed over the years in Nimbin has allowed a freedom of expression and development of especially sustainable and environmentally low impact housing. However, this has created some issues such as people living in minimalistic housing in isolated and often heavily vegetated and under serviced areas with poor roads and infrastructure. Our community has incredible resource in its people and the community connections between them that provides opportunities to address natural disasters that other less unified and collectively run community could not hope to attain.

Thanks in large part to climate change our dispersed, diverse, unique and growing community faces increasingly frequent and increasingly large natural disasters. This includes notable prolonged heat waves and droughts, sudden severe flooding, wildfires in rainforests, sizable landslips and torrential storm events.

In this era of information overload, social isolation and social media misinformation our highly mobile and transitory population requires the provision of essential information in a succinct and timely manner. This document provides that information and links to reliable sources of information that the people of Nimbin will need during natural disasters.

This disaster plan is designed to integrate community, individuals and all the layers of government in a time of disaster. It captures and provides essential information, and provides a guide for action in the natural disasters we are increasingly facing. It is a plan that will assist everyone be they visitor, community member, community organisation or government agency to successfully survive these coming events.

Contact the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group to be involved in putting the plan into action.

Email: DisasterResilience@nimbincommunity.org

What is a Community Disaster Plan?

What is a Community Disaster Plan?

The Nimbin Community Disaster Plan (the Plan) is a practical and community driven approach to mitigate our risks to natural disasters in the future and to guide our community in becoming more resilient.

The Plan aims to understand the needs of our community and to set out an action plan to build our resilience.

This Plan acknowledges the extensive impact of the 2019/2020 bushfire season and that our community needs continued support to navigate the long, personal journey of recovery.

Before the bushfires, the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan 2016-2021 identified the need to prepare this Plan.

Why do we need a Plan?

Nimbin has experienced many natural disasters including the devastating bushfires in 2019/2020. Floods and storms are a significant ongoing annual threat.

Due to climate change, future events will likely be experienced at a greater intensity and frequency, increasing the impacts and the need to be prepared and work together.

As a community, we need to better understand these risks and how to live with an increased threat of all natural disasters in a way that prepares us to protect what is most important and forge a path forward, to thrive, and grow as a close community.



A community that is prepared for disasters by having necessary arrangements in place to deal with the potential impacts will be a more resilient community and one that will return to the pre-disaster state or adapt to a 'new normal' more quickly than a community that is not prepared.

Source: Darcy Grant

What disasters does this Plan include?

This Plan considers all natural disasters that occur in our area including:

- bushfire
- flood
- storm event
- drought
- landslip
- heatwave

The Plan does not cover other disasters like pandemics, earthquakes or infrastructure failure, which are the responsibility of organisations/government outside Nimbin.

Our partnership with Lismore City Council

This Plan has been created in partnership with Lismore City Council (Council). Council is committed to strengthening the local community capacity to respond and recover effectively in future disasters. The impact of the 2019/2020 bushfires on the Nimbin community was identified and Council recognised the opportunity for our community to reflect on, and learn from, our experience and to develop a specific placed based disaster recovery plan.

The project is made possible through Council with funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience & Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 (BCRERF Phase 1), which was provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Where to get more information?

A detailed description of the lead agencies that have a shared responsibility for emergency management is set out in Appendix A.



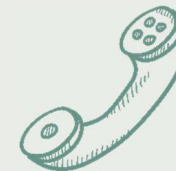
Where are our evacuation centres?

Evacuation centres are opened by the RFS or SES during an emergency or disaster. At the time of the event, check for current information about what centres are open. This may include:

Nimbin Showgrounds 33-37 Cecil St, Nimbin

Lismore Showgrounds, Alexandra Parade,
North Lismore

Southern Cross University
Military Road, East Lismore



To report an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

If you are deaf or have a speech or hearing impairment call 106

Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds

The impacts of climate change

Climate change will have implications for every area of our lives – our work, food production and food security, access to water, energy production and use, where we live, home design and sustainability, our health and mental health. We know that the impact of climate change means there will be more frequent and potentially devastating weather events to come.

Disasters are expected to expose our community to previously unknown risks. This means a greater emphasis on understanding the likely impacts, and preparing for them, will be integral to mitigating those risks.



For up to date information about disasters in Lismore LGA visit the Disaster Dashboard:

<https://disaster.lismore.nsw.gov.au/>



Source: Darcy Grant

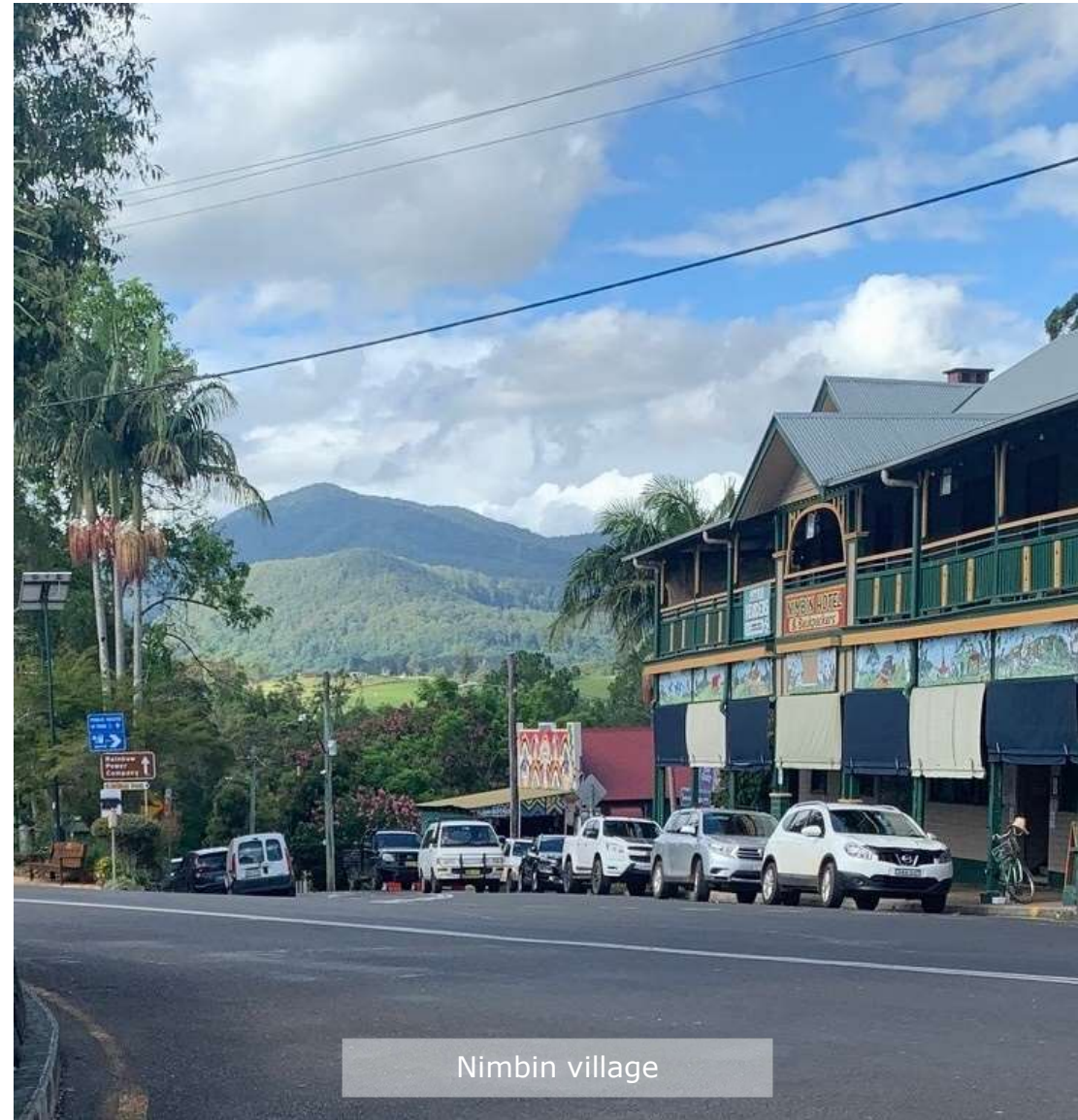
Disasters in Nimbin and surrounds

Throughout Nimbin's history, our community has experienced significant and devastating natural disasters. The subtropical climate characterised by hot and humid summers and dry, mild winters, Nimbin's unique geography, and the winding rivers combine to create an environment that heightens our susceptibility to storms and flood events.

During the summer months, severe storms with hail, damaging winds and heavy rainfall are common. These storms can result in flooding from the rivers, local creeks, and overland. The most immediate impact is damage to roads and bridges and many people are cut off or are forced to leave their homes, and normal life is disrupted. The latest flood in December 2020 was declared a natural disaster.

Storms can also result in landslips within the area, especially given our steep landscape. Following Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and the subsequent storm events in the region, there were a significant number of landslips. This caused a substantial amount of damage to roads and vegetation.

With long summers in Nimbin, the risk of prolonged drought is an emerging climate change-related issue, increasing the risk of bushfires. Nimbin's peak risk for bushfires usually occurs from spring to mid-summer (September to January each year). The 2019/ 2020 bushfires had devastating effects on our community and environment (refer to details on the next page).



Bushfires – 2019/2020

The 2019/2020 bushfires represented an unprecedented event for Nimbin. Drought and widespread, protracted heatwave conditions combined with gusty winds created a catastrophic fire danger.

Starting within the Nightcap National Park/Mt Nardi, the bushfire of November 2019 quickly spread to neighbouring properties. During this time, the Nimbin community gathered to defend the fire and assist the RFS volunteers. Known as The Defenders, community members actively helped protect and create containment lines to save homes and the forest.

The first sighting of the fire originated on Friday, 8 November 2019. This fire soon spread to the south onto the Nicholson's property and east onto Tuntable Falls community on 9 November 2019. By Wednesday 13 November, the fire reached the Siddha Farm community and onto Rainbow Falls Community on the western side of Terania valley.

The most intense period lasted for 5 to 7 days from 15 - 20 November 2019 on Tuntable and on Siddha Farm and Rainbow Falls Community. There were up to 130 people defending the fires on the ground between the three communities at its peak.

By early December the fire has spread across some 6650 hectares. These were extremely intense days for our community and the local RFS brigades involved.

While many people during this period were on the fire fronts, there were many hubs located at Tuntable, Siddha and Rainbow Falls communities, and the Nimbin CWA *Food for Furies* at the Nimbin Town Hall. These hubs were a vital meeting point and information source for many community members and tourists. The *Food for Furies* estimated they feed up between 60 and 257 people a meal two times a day. The Nimbin CWA was also integral in organising approximately 200 volunteers across various jobs during the fires.

The bushfires have had a devastating impact on the Nimbin economy, environment and wellbeing of our community. With the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in NSW in 2020, there has been a significant loss in tourism expenditure.

Lost income continues to impact businesses, staff, supply chains and our community, resulting in instability, uncertainty and acute stress. These impacts amplify the ongoing challenges of drought, flooding in December 2020 and other contributing factors.



We are not used to fires up here and it was a shocking reality check.



Nimbin Disaster Survey 2021

Bushfires

Bushfires are unmanaged fires that burn uncontrollably. The severity of the bushfire season can be dependent on how dry the winter and spring have been. Managing fire is vital for protecting our homes and maintaining environmental habitats.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) undertake fire management activities such as planned burns where appropriate. With significant areas of rainforest in Nimbin, planned burns are not necessarily feasible.

In Northern NSW the bushfire season traditionally runs from August to December each year, so most planned burns occur in early winter and anywhere between February and August.

Council produces Bush Fire Prone Land maps. This is land that is likely to be subject to bushfire attack. In dry and gusty conditions, anywhere can burn, as seen in 2019 across vast areas of NSW and in our beloved rainforest.

The Bush Fire Prone Land Map applying to Lismore was prepared following RFS guidelines. Council works with the RFS to develop the maps, and they are updated periodically to reflect changes in vegetation or legislation. The Bush Fire Prone Land Map for the Nimbin area is in Appendix B.

Do you want to volunteer with your local RFS?

Sign up with RFS at:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/volunteering-with-the-rfs



To check if your property is on bushfire prone land go to RFS website:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/planning-for-bush-fire-protection/bush-fire-prone-land/check-bfpl



Useful links

Bushfire survival plan

www.myfireplan.com.au

Fires Near me

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me

Flooding

The Northern Rivers is one of the most flood prone areas in NSW. Several creeks running through Nimbin are part of the Richmond catchment such as Terania Creek and Leicester Creek - it is often subject to significant flooding.

Flooding happens when heavy rain falls over the catchment. Run-off from houses and streets also contributes to Terania Creek flooding. The combination of heavy rain, run-off and the existing water in the creek causes creek levels to rise.

The Nimbin community can experience flooding from the overland flow as well. Overland flow is run-off that travels over the land during heavy rainfall events. Overland flow can be unpredictable because it is affected by localised rainfall and urban features such as stormwater pipes, roads, fences, walls and other structures. The actual depth and impact of overland flow vary depending on local conditions, but it generally occurs quickly.

Council develops Flood Prone Maps to understand flood hazard reduction in developed areas and to ensure that new development is compatible with the flood hazard and does not create additional flooding problems. The Flood Prone Map for the Nimbin area is in Appendix B.

Do you want to join a Community Action Team with the SES to help before, during or after a flood?

Sign up with SES at:

www.ses.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer/community-action-team-volunteers/



For more information on flood prone land go to Council's website:

www.lismore.nsw.gov.au



Useful links

Areas at flooding risk - SES

www.ses.nsw.gov.au/your-local-risk/

Flood Alert SMS Registration

www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/apps/flood_rego

Storm events & East Coast lows

Severe thunderstorms are the most common and damaging storm types in NSW resulting in building damage and infrastructure failure from lightning, wind, rain and hail.

Storms are atmospheric disturbances usually characterised by strong and hazardous winds, frequently combined with heavy rain, snow, sleet, hail, ice and/or lightning and thunder. This definition includes unusual meteorological disturbances, such as tornadoes or waterspouts, caused by severe thunderstorms.

East Coast Lows (ECLs) are intense low-pressure systems that occur off the east coast of Australia. They can form at any time of the year and significant ECLs occur on average about 10 times each year across the NSW coast. They are more common during autumn and winter with peak frequency in June.

ECLs will often intensify rapidly overnight making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the NSW coast. These storms can bring damaging winds and heavy rainfall often resulting in flooding.

Have you seen damaged infrastructure after a storm or other disaster?

Report to Lismore City Council on
council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

For concerns which are ongoing, contact Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) so they can lobby for action.



For more information on storms go the
State Emergency Service website:

www.ses.nsw.gov.au/disaster-tabs-header/storm

Useful links

For more information on the weather go to
Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au



Landslips

Landslips usually involve the movement of large amounts of earth, rock, sand or mud or any combination of these. Landslips are generally caused by heavy rain. This occurs when rain saturates the soil on a hillside – often where there has been human activity, for example, a construction where trees and plants have been removed.

In some cases, remaining vegetation may not be able to support the soil's weight against the force of gravity causing the top saturated layer of soil to slip down the slope, taking whatever is on the land with it.

In areas burned by fire, a lower threshold of rainfall may initiate landslips due to the damaged nature of the landscape.



For more information on landslips go to
Geoscience Australia:

<https://www.ga.gov.au/>



Planting Guidelines

You can prepare for landslips by planting local native species in steep areas. Need some ideas, Lismore City Council has developed a guideline go to:

<https://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/new-guide-promotes-biodiversity-in-backyards>

Heatwaves

A heatwave occurs when there are three or more days of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the main health illnesses connected with heat and heatwaves, relating to a person's body temperature.

Heatwaves result in more fatalities in Australia than all natural disasters combined. Heatwaves can also increase the severity of drought and risk of bushfires.



For more information on heatwaves go to
Beat the Heat:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/default.aspx

For more information on the weather go to
Bureau of Meteorology:

www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/



Ask your GP about your health in the heat.
Have their number handy.

Call Health Direct on
1800 022 222 for general health advice.

This is a free 24-hour telephone NSW government health advice line staffed by Registered Nurses to provide expert health advice (free calls from landlines).

Drought

Prolonged drought impacts rural communities and businesses significantly. A prolonged drought is a deficiency in the water supply that affects water availability and water quality. Surface waters are the primary water resource in Nimbin, although some groundwater sources are available for use during dry periods.

Droughts do not have immediate effects like floods, but sustained droughts can cause economic stress. Droughts impact the productivity and profitability of farms in Nimbin. Many people in our community also depend on rainwater for drinking supplies. During prolonged droughts, the lack of drinking water can significantly affect our health.

Services and businesses suffer as less money is spent locally. Inevitably, some businesses close and people have left Nimbin seeking opportunities elsewhere. Drought also has significant social and environmental impacts. Stress often affects the health and wellbeing of our community.

Did you know that the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre (NNIC) is the referral hub for all local and regional mental health services? NNIC maintains an up to date register of services.

Email: admin@nnic.org.au

Phone: **02 6689 1692**

Website: www.nnic.org.au



For more information on droughts go to
Department of Primary Industries:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/drought-in-nsw



For mental health support the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) connects rural people to the help they need.

Contact your local RAMHP Coordinator:

Ms Alex Grantham Northern
NSW RAMHP Coordinator

Email: alexandra.grantham@health.nsw.gov.au

Ph: 0428 886 752

Development of the Plan

Our community has led the creation of this Plan and driven the outcomes and actions. It has been developed in a collaborative, coordinated and adaptable way.

Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee

Following the 2019/2020 bushfires, our community recognised the need to organise and prepare for the growing impacts of climate change and to increase our resilience on many levels.

The Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee was formed in December 2019 to work in partnership with Council to assist and support the community through the process of recovery from the bushfires and the development of a community disaster plan.

The Committee developed a report documenting our community's experiences during the bushfires called "*A Snapshot of perspectives on the community response to the 2019 Nimbin area bushfire*". This report has informed this Plan.

After Action Reviews

After the fires a number of organisations in our community completed after action reviews to learn from the experience. This included the CWA and Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre. Following the action reviews, the Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) developed a Community Level Disaster Emergency Response Plan which sets out the roles the Centre might perform in the event of another disaster.

Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group

Following receipt of funding, the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group was formed to help develop this Plan.

An expression of interest was published in the Nimbin Good Times for people to join the Group and this Group has driven the Plan coming to life.



Community workshop – February 2021

Survey

As part of developing this Plan, an online survey was completed during January 2021. This was targeted to understand the bushfire's impact and how to best support our community's preparation, resilience, and recovery for future natural disasters. The insights provide a platform for us to work with our community on recovery and resilience.

Key impacts from bushfires

The impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires have been significant for our community. The community was most affected by the smoke during the bushfire. Roads being cut off was also a considerable impact, as well as burnt vegetation. 22% of respondents still consider themselves recovering from the bushfires.

While people saw the natural environment, friends and animals as the most affected due to the bushfires, the community's mental health was raised as a significant issue. When our community was asked the biggest impacts from the bushfires, stress, heightened anxiety and PTSD were mentioned by many.

Communication methods

Our community received information mostly from Facebook during the bushfires. While the alert apps and family or friends became significant resources.

Most respondents still consider alert apps as being the best way to communicate during a disaster. At the same time, they did consider public meetings, Facebook and the radio as extremely important.

Preparing for future disasters

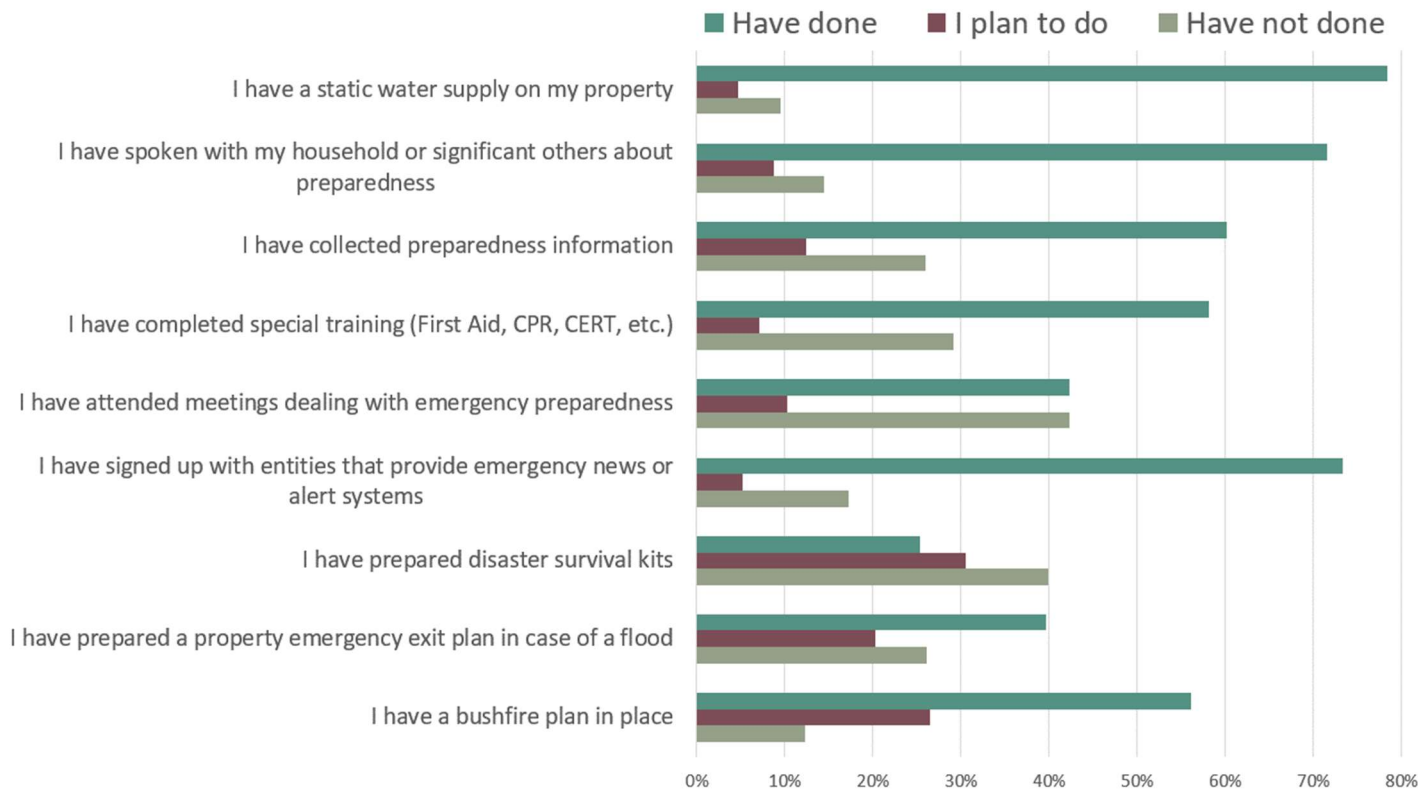
A significant number of people have a bushfire plan in place and are signed up with a variety of emergency apps on their phone. Many people have also attended public meetings about emergency management and discussed preparedness with other household members.

In the survey, storm events and floods were perceived as the biggest threats to our community, followed by heatwave. In terms of our community's knowledge of managing each disaster, most of our community knew a lot about bushfire management. At the same time, there is varied knowledge about landslips, flood, drought and storm events.

Ideas for disaster management

Our community was asked to provide ideas in its recovery and resilience to future disasters. A plan to clarify what to do and when, was the most popular answer. There was also an identified need for equipment at hand during a disaster. Education or information about what to do during and after a disaster was requested including advice on how to be fire ready. More collaboration to assist vulnerable people in the community was also identified.

Survey results: How prepared are you?



226
residents,
business owners
& landowners
did the survey

“ *I feel good clear communication is always essential and knowing exactly where to go to find information.* ”

Workshops

In February 2021, the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group organised two workshops in the town hall to discuss and grow knowledge on the actions and goals our community could undertake to prepare for and respond to future disasters.

Over 30 residents attended the workshops. The outcomes from the workshops provided some important community views and aspirations that have contributed to this Plan.

The Group also held a street stall at the farmers markets to gather more ideas about what the community could do. In March 2021, another public workshop was held to refine the actions.



Grab and go

Think about what you would take if you had 15 minutes of notice to leave your home. Now, think if you had just two minutes.

Pack as you leave

- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Phone and charger
- ✓ Wallet or purse & keys

Prepare a list

Write down what else you should bring for everyone in your household. Clothes? Toothbrush?



Vulnerable people

Think about needs of any vulnerable people in your household including babies, older adults, people with medical conditions or disabilities.

Animals

Think about any animals and pets.

The Nimbin and surrounds community

Community profile

Our community comprises the village of Nimbin and a variety of rural interests, including grazing and cropping, environmental protection areas, and intentional communities.

The culture in Nimbin was forged from the Aquarius Festival in 1973, which encouraged people to live in the area seeking an alternative lifestyle. Many intentional communities were formed following the festival.

Our community is south/south-west of Nightcap National Park. Nightcap National Park was the first declared national park in NSW due to the local community's actions. Natural beauty is extremely important to our community, and our love for the environment is reflected in how we live sustainably.

Nimbin is located within the boundaries of the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation, the traditional custodians of the land. The Nimbin rock is a sacred Widjabul Wia-bal site and significant place for men's initiations. Lillian rocks is also a sacred site being a place for women business.

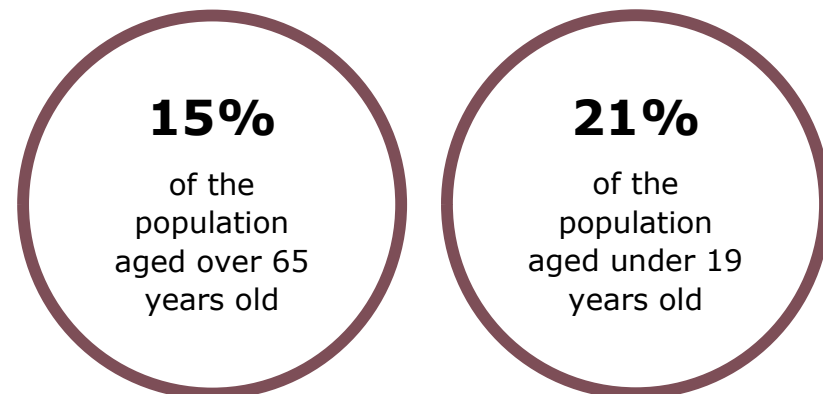
Nimbin is home to iconic landscapes, environmental attributes and a sense of community and identity that sets it apart. These unique attributes go to the community's very heart and form a significant part of our individual and collective community values.

Community organisations

The sense of community connectedness is one of the recognised strengths for Nimbin. Our community has incredible resource in its people with a strong culture of volunteering. A list of local community organisations and contacts is maintained by NNIC in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit. This list provides important connections within our community which will be a source of important resources for use before, during and after a disaster.

Vulnerable people in our community

The catchment area of Nimbin includes some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged population in the region with high unemployment, low median household income levels and poor access to transport. The way of living has also created some issues such as people living in minimalistic housing in isolated and often heavily vegetated and under serviced areas with poor roads and infrastructure. This makes some people in our community more vulnerable to the risks and impacts of disasters.





Community assets

Nimbin has a proud history of purchasing property which is owned and operated by the community via various community organisations.

The purchase of these assets was made possible by the hard work and determination of our community. A list of community owned and operated assets is maintained by NNIC in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit.

These assets are an important strength to our community in the event of a disaster.

They also require ongoing management and maintenance, which relies upon people in our community generously volunteering time and energy to these tasks.

“

Keep working and doing things as a community because that's where strength and resilience is fostered.

Nimbin Disaster Survey 2021

”

Goals

The following goals are based on our community values and will guide our community in future decision making as we implement this Plan. The actions contained in this Plan are structured according to our four goals.

GOAL 1 PREPARE



OUR COMMUNITY HAS A STRONG CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS

GOAL 2 CONNECT



OUR COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED & WORKS TOGETHER TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

GOAL 3 SHARE



WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE SO OUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS AND RECOVERS FROM DISASTERS

GOAL 4 PARTICIPATE



WE HAVE A COLLABORATIVE TEAM TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS IN THIS PLAN

Actions

What are we doing?

The following actions are set out to help our community better understand the priorities, form clear outcomes, and provide accountability. We have developed the actions following input from the survey and workshops.

The actions are primarily when issues fall within our direct control and where no other level of government is already providing a response. Some actions will need prompting and lobbying of the government to progress our community's resilience and recovery needs.

Who is doing what?

To implement the actions, we will draw upon existing strengths, organisations and networks and also seek to explore new ways to collaborate as a community at a local level.

When are we doing it?

Our timeframe for delivering our actions include:

Short term	Within 6 months
Medium term	Within 6 months to 1 year
Long term	Over 1 year
Ongoing	On a regular basis
As required	After a disaster

Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' knowledge

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived in this country for tens of thousands of years, witnessing droughts, floods, fires and sea levels rising and falling.

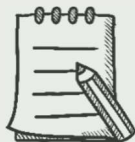
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have shown resilience to adversity and the importance of family and community, connectedness, sharing, role models and leadership.

Acceptance and understanding of the knowledge and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will contribute to decreasing the impacts of emergencies and disasters.

Adopted from Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands; emergency management counterparts other states and territories; land management; and Indigenous groups.

Funding

As there are various types of assistance including personal hardship, essential services grants, restoration of public assets and assistance for small businesses and primary producers, we will identify the funding for the actions once detailed plans are made based on available opportunities.



GOAL 1 – PREPARE

OUR COMMUNITY HAS A STRONG CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Inventory of community assets	Create an inventory of community assets within the Nimbin village (based on list in Welcome to Nimbin Kit) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who owns the assets • the schedule of maintenance to minimise disaster impacts. 	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Skills and equipment register	Interrogate the list of skills and equipment created during the community survey in January 2021 and create a central list held by the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre which can be used in the event of a disaster. Provide intentional communities with a template so that each intentional community can do an audit of skills and equipment and create their own list to use in the event of a disaster.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Accommodation list	Create a list of accommodation available in Nimbin village which is available during an emergency event.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Community disaster supplies	<p>Seek funding to undertake a feasibility study about the creation of a central depot for community disaster supplies, including a shipping container or the like. This study would consider the location of the depot, ownership, maintenance, approval requirements and costs as well the supplies to be kept in the depot. The supplies could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tents / sleeping bags • Portable cots • Signs / traffic control equipment • Tree pruning equipment such as chain saw • Various power tools • PA system / bull horn or portable communication device • Equipment needed to boil large volumes of water or cook large volumes of food (adequate supply of large pots, commercial cooking kettles, etc.) • Logistics, equipment and containers available to transport food or water during an evacuation • Portable chairs and tables for evacuation relocation/staging • Manual siphon pumps • Dust/filter-type masks / eye protection (goggles, safety glasses, etc.) • Sandbags 	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Access to static water	<p>Improve access to water to prepare for any future bushfire and drought by identifying emergency water access points in the Nimbin area.</p> <p>This includes access to emergency water supply on the multiple occupancies and other private properties. This will include mapping existing access points, recognising gaps and establishing water access points in remote locations accessible for emergency water supply.</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with the Rural Fire Service
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Water tanks	<p>Identify community and non-residential properties in the Nimbin village with gaps or a need to replace existing water tanks. This could include public spaces in the Nimbin CBD. This could provide community members with emergency water during extreme drought conditions.</p> <p>Seek funding to provide more water tanks in identified locations for community benefit.</p> <p>Investigate incentives and how to reduce barriers for individual property owners to purchase and install water tanks and promote information in the local community.</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Water Security Committee in collaboration with individuals, businesses, and community organisations and Lismore City Council
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Fire trail map	<p>Identify and prepare fire trail maps including existing and needed fire trails in the local area.</p> <p>Consider staging the creation of the map by area, with priority given to strategic zones.</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with local RFS brigades and property owners
		Timeframe:	Long term

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
	<p>Seek input from the community into the maps, whilst respecting any requests to maintain privacy.</p> <p>Once the map has been produced, provide to the local and district Rural Fire Service.</p>	Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced



GOAL 2 – CONNECT

OUR COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED & WORKS TOGETHER TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Community disaster day	<p>Hold an annual event as part of the Nimbin Show to raise awareness about preparing for disasters. This should include topics such as (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water harvesting and water security • Removal of invasive species • Emergency supplies and disaster kits • Mental health assistance • Helping children young people understand disaster risks <p>Invite State agencies involved in emergency management to participate in this event.</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre in collaboration with the A&I Committee and local RFS brigade
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Vulnerable and isolated people	<p>Investigate ways to better connect with isolated and vulnerable community members through our existing community network and organisations.</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with Nimbin Aged Care, NNIC, CWA and hospital.
		Timeframe:	Ongoing
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Hard to reach residents	<p>Develop a list of isolated and vulnerable community members at a localised level, including a phone tree,</p>	Organisation / person responsible:	Community action team for each local area (see Goal 4)

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
	and keep it up to date as people move in or out of the area.	Timeframe:	Ongoing
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Increase collaboration with emergency services	Investigate ways to increase collaboration between emergency services and our community to assist in disaster resilience and recovery.	Organisation / person responsible:	Community liaison team (see Goal 4)
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Improve connections with visitors	Provide accommodation providers with the information sheets to distribute to visitors on their arrival (refer to goal 3 about information sheets). This should include information about where to go and what to do during a disaster.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Chamber of Commerce
		Timeframe:	Medium
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Improve connections with new residents	Include information sheets (refer to goal 3 about information sheets) about the local risks for new community members in the 'Welcome to Nimbin' kit.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Training on disaster response and recovery	Organise an information session for community members about the Lismore LGA Emergency Recovery Strategy to upskill our community on how to help each other respond and recover from future disasters. This will include information on spontaneous volunteering.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with Lismore City Council
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Volunteer induction kit	Develop an induction kit for spontaneous volunteers which can be used by any community (ie multiple occupancy) in the future and also by local community organisations involved in future disasters.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Medium term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced



GOAL 3 – SHARE

WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE SO OUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS AND RECOVERS FROM DISASTERS

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Information sheets	Develop local information sheets for all disasters to help the community understand the risks and how to reduce them. These will be based on the information on this Plan and include a simple 'mind map' of what happens locally in response to each disaster type.	Organisation/person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
After action review	Following any major disaster, develop an after action review process to identify any improvements and gaps in our response, which will be incorporated into this Plan. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditing local infrastructure to identify damage • Accessing local knowledge on where the problems are, and which roads or other infrastructure needs to need to be fixed • Lobbying the appropriate level of government to replace or repair the damaged infrastructure. 	Organisation/person responsible:	Disaster action team (see Goal 4)
		Timeframe:	As required
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Online information	Create a dedicated Nimbin and surrounds community disaster page on the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre website which gives the community	Organisation/person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre
		Timeframe:	Medium term

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
	up-to-date information about disaster prevention, preparation, recovery and response.	Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Hard copy information	Create a central information hub at the Nimbin Town Hall for distribution of hard copy information during an emergency or disaster event.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with School of Arts
		Timeframe:	As required
		Funding / Grant source:	Not required
Bushfire education	Investigate options to deliver education opportunities on mosaic burning and cultural burning (for example, Firesticks workshop).	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Ongoing
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Flood mitigation education	Investigate options to deliver education opportunities on community land management / land care programs to include riparian vegetation in order to reduce impacts of a flood.	Organisation / person responsible:	Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Environment Centre, Tuntable Landcare, Aquarius Landcare
		Timeframe:	Ongoing
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced



Goal 4 – Participate

WE HAVE A COLLABORATIVE TEAM TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS IN THIS PLAN

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
Implementation of this Plan	<p>Investigate and decide the coordination and implementation of this Plan to support its framework and actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing the “community resilience team” model run by the Red Cross • considering if any changes need to be made to this model to reflect local needs • connecting to existing community organisations and networks <p>Create clear roles and responsibilities on the progression of the actions.</p>	Organisation/person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced
Coordination roles	<p>Decide the coordination roles which the community will need to be filled before, during or after a disaster.</p> <p>Develop a “How to guide” for each role so that people can step into these roles in the event of another disaster.</p> <p>Decide who will fill the identified roles – this could be an existing community organisation, individuals or by establishing new group and roles (such as a localised action teams).</p>	Organisation/person responsible:	Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group
		Timeframe:	Short term
		Funding / Grant source:	To be sourced

What are we doing?	How are we doing it?		
	<p>Potential roles include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community liaison team</i>: who works with the RFS, SES and other agencies on disaster management preferably someone with prior knowledge about disaster management. • <i>Phone tree developer</i>: a phone tree is a layered communication model used to notify specific individuals of an event and coordinate response and recovery. • <i>Disaster action team</i>: establishing a community action team to mobilise assistance for people during a disaster. • <i>Connections developer</i>: developing connections to hard-to-reach residents through a community knowledge tree. Include the residents in a community directory with relevant information, including the preferred type of contact during a disaster. • <i>Communications protocol</i>: a person that develops a communications protocol where committee members or volunteers are available before, during and after emergencies to provide improved community liaison and communication • <i>Central community hub coordinator</i>: a person dedicated to establishing a central community hub during a disaster (such as at the town hall). The member will be the primary coordinator during a disaster at the hub. This member will also organise spontaneous volunteers during a disaster. 		

What are we doing?		How are we doing it?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Billeting coordinator</i>: a dedicated person as a billeting coordinator at the central community hub, including organising the shelter environment and maintain the proper amount of bedding, food and toiletries for the displaced. • <i>Mental health supporter</i>: a person to provide information on where to get assistance for mental health during and following a disaster. • <i>Food coordinator</i>: a person to organise food for displaced people or volunteers during a disaster. 		

Working together

Roles of all stakeholders

All levels of government have a role to play in reducing our exposure and vulnerability to risk and building our resilience. As a community, we have responsibilities too.

A detailed description of the lead agencies that have a shared responsibility for emergency management is set out in Appendix A.

State Government

- Coordinating and executing disaster management arrangements in the area
- Setting strategic direction and coordination of efforts to build resilience across all sectors of the community
- Enabling access to up-to-date and reliable risk information
- Ensuring all sectors of the community are aware of the options available for effective risk reduction

Lismore City Council

- Leading local level disaster management arrangements
- Building community. understanding and capability to manage risks.
- Leading enhanced community resilience.
- Reducing exposure to all hazards through responsible land use planning, development and construction.
- Protect important environmental areas and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience.

Other organisations in our community

The private sector, community organisations, service providers, government owned corporations and non-government organisations are responsible for:

- Understanding their exposure to disaster risks
- Contributing to the social and economic recovery of our community
- Considering the prevention and reduction of risk as part of their core activities

Our community and individuals are encouraged to:

- Build healthy levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation
- Understand their exposure to local risks
- Carry out activities to plan and prepare for all hazards
- Undertake the actions contained in this Plan

Emergency management model

Emergency management is about managing risks to communities and the environment. Australian emergency management agencies use a model called prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).

Emergency Management is about PPRR:

Prevention

Actions undertaken in advance to eliminate or reduce the level of the risk or severity of emergencies. Examples include back-burning

Preparation

Steps undertaken before an incident to ensure effective response and recovery. Examples include training, educating and sharing information.

Response

The assistance and intervention during or immediately after an emergency. Focus is on saving lives and protecting community assets.

Recovery

the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the recovery of the economic, natural, social and built environment. Examples include the development of recovery plans.

The cyclical nature of this model is important as it highlights that managing emergencies happens all the time, not just during 'the season' for bushfires for example.



Appendix A– **Agencies and their roles in emergency management**

The following information has been adapted from the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (December 2018) and the NSW Recovery Plan (2016)

Emergency Services Organisations	Role
Resilience NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee and coordinate emergency management policy, service delivery and all aspects of disaster recovery at a state, national and international level.
Fire and Rescue NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All practical measures to prevent fires and protect life and property from fire or hazardous material incidents Training and equipping residents within FRNSW Fire Districts
NSW Rural Fire Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during a fire (within rural fire district) Management of hazard reduction and mitigation programs Firefighting response to fires within Rural Fire Districts
State Emergency Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the response to actual or imminent threats of flood, storm or tsunami to protect persons from danger to their safety and health and to protect property from damage in respect of these hazards
NSW Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combat agency for Search and Rescue and coordination in circumstances where no other agency has legislated responsibility during emergencies.
Department of Primary Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during animal, plant disease, rodent or insect plague
Ambulance Service of NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a pre-hospital emergency incident management capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any event
NSW Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible during a pandemic and health support during an emergency.
Lismore City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council plays a key role in managing local recovery, providing services and assistance to the community and advice to State Government.
NSW Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates or aids in regulating scheduled activities that may cause significant environmental impact, dangerous goods transport, pesticide use, hazardous waste, contaminated land and radiation control.
Welfare Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functional area is responsible for coordinating the provision of welfare services to disaster affected people
Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is responsible for coordinating formal recovery processes including recovery operations.

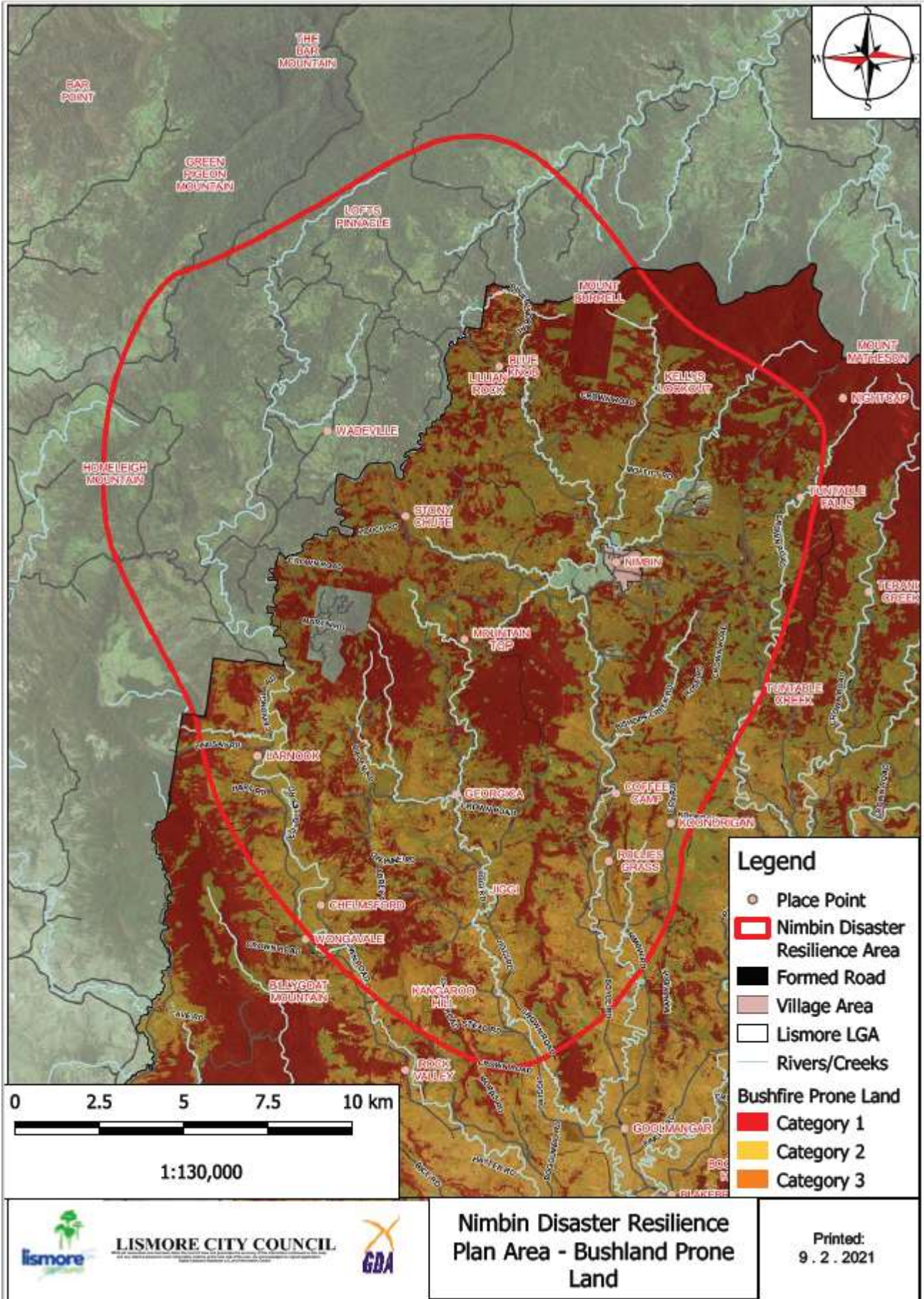
Appendix B – **Bushfire prone land map & flood prone land map**

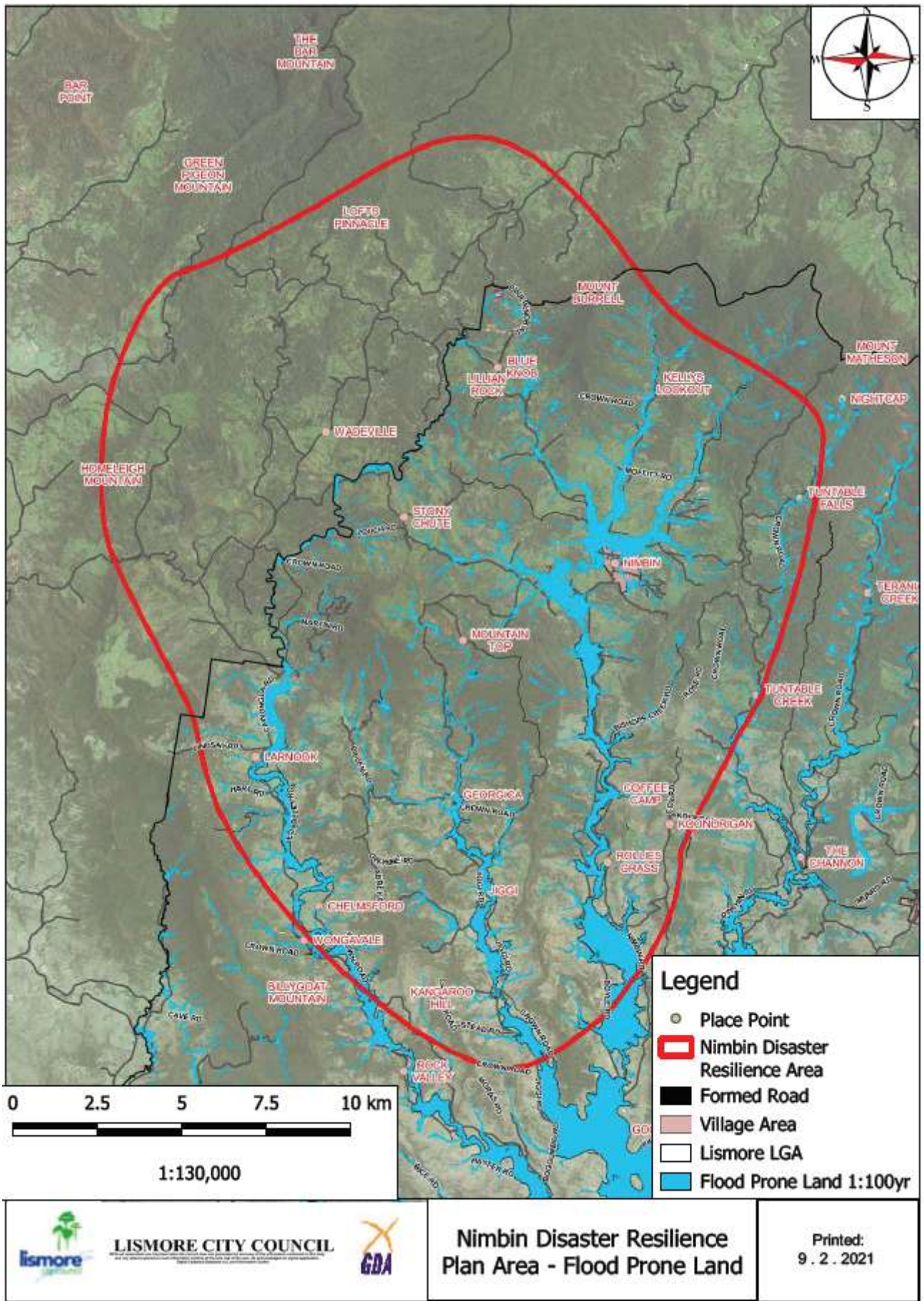
Bushfire prone land map:

Vegetation Category 1 (red): Land considered to be the highest risk for bushfire and surrounded by a 100m buffer (buffer is yellow)

Vegetation Category 2 (light orange): Land is considered to be a lower bush fire risk than categories 1 and 3. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).

Vegetation Category 3 (dark orange): Land is considered to be a medium bush fire risk. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).







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