

EDEN & SURROUNDS

Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategic Plan



Proudly presented by:

**Eden Community
Access Centre Inc.**

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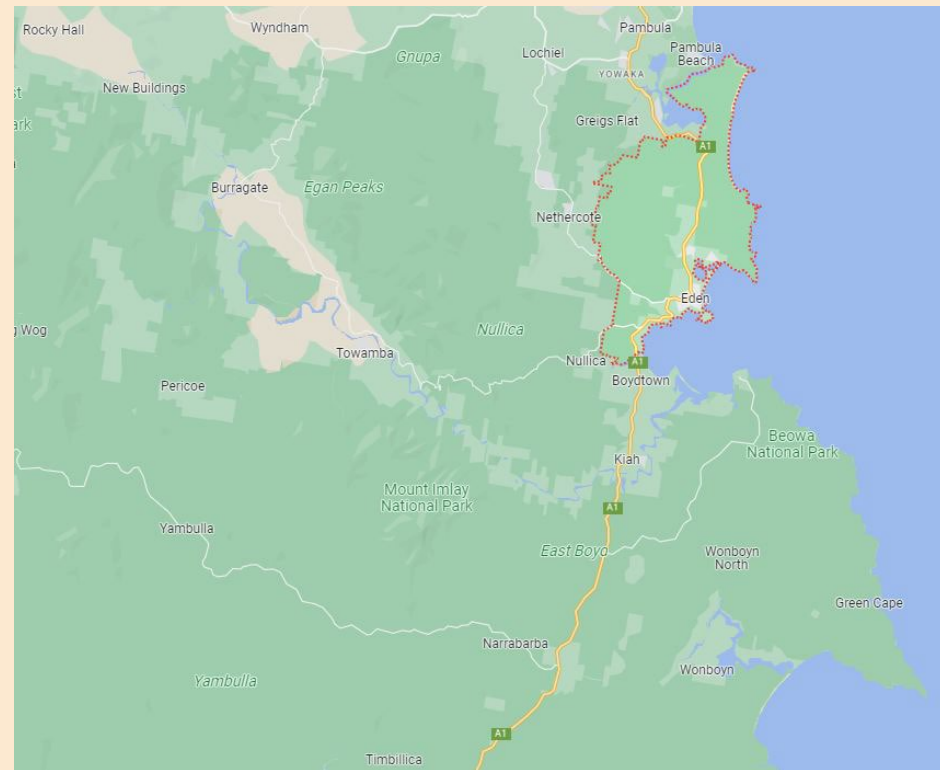
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*Cover image: Rocky Hall Community Table Talk, August 2022

ABOUT EDEN AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

EDEN IS A SMALL SEASIDE TOWN ON THE FAR SOUTH COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. KNOWN AS THE SAPPHIRE COAST, IT IS SURROUNDED BY PRISTINE WATERS AND NATIONAL PARKS WHICH ARE DOTTED WITH THE SMALLER VILLAGES AND OUTLYING DISTRICTS OF KIAH, NETHERCOTE, PERICOE, ROCKY HALL, TOWAMBA, WONBOYN AND WYNDHAM



GLOSSARY

~ Acronyms ~

CRT – Community-led Resilience Teams (Red Cross)

DPP – Disaster Preparedness Project

DPRRSP – Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategic Plan

DRRYP – Disaster Risk Reduction Youth-led Project

EMH – Eden Marine High School

ECAC – Eden Community Access Centre

ECoC – Eden Chamber of Commerce

ERRA – Eden Recovery and Resilience Alliance

BVSC – Bega Valley Shire Council

UOW – University of Wollongong, Bega Valley



Image: Eden Cove CRT meeting with Red Cross, November 2022

WHO WE ARE COMMUNITY ASSET-MAPPING DATA

(DPP and strength-based approach to community-led disaster preparedness)



Individual

Tourism Operators
Cruise Experts
Small Business Owners
Sports People
Timber Workers
Farmers
Historians
Artists
Volunteers
Writers
Musicians
Entrepreneurs
First Nations Elders
Young People
Boat Builders
Gardeners
School Teachers



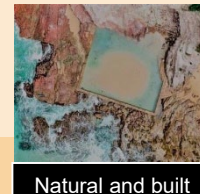
Local community groups
and networks

Men's Shed
ESSCI
Eden Quilters
Car Club
Rotary
View Club
Probus
CWA
Vinnies
Anglicare
Twofold Ladies Club
Imagine Eden
Eden Tigers
Eden Soccer Club
Eden Community Pantry
Eden Marine High P&C
Eden Public School P&C
Marine Rescue
Cemetery Committee
Eden AFL Club
Aboriginal Evangelical
Church
Mountain Bike Club
Bowls Club
Chamber of Commerce
Fishing Club
Trail Blazers
Lap It Up Club
Twofold Yacht Club
Mumbulla Foundation
Pony Club



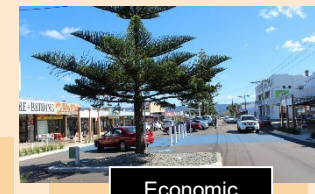
Government and non-
government agencies

Anglican Church
Eden Primary School
Eden Marine High School
Eden Visitors Centre
Fisheries
Port Authority
Eden LALC
Twofold Aboriginal
Corporation
Eden Access Centre
Rural Fire Service
SES
Campbell Page
Services NSW
Cruise Eden
Playability



Natural and built
environment

Harbour
Beaches
Bundian Way
Light to Light Walk
Boardwalk
EVIC Welcome Centre
Sporting Ovals
Beowa National Park
State Forests
Fitness Trail
Whaling Station
Edrom Lodge
Pinnacles
Haycock Beach
Navy Wharf
Boyd's Tower
Nullica Lodge
Scout Hall
Aslings Beach Rock
Pool
Eden Killer Whale
Museum
Chip Mill
Water Tanks
Tip
Golf Club
Fire Sheds
Mary McKillop Hall
Eden Pool
Treatment Plant
Eden Log Cabin



Economic

Imlay Street Retail
Sector
Car Yards
Eden Chamber of
Commerce
Community Markets
Forestry Industry
Fishing Industry
Marine Sales &
Repairs
Boat Cruises
Supermarkets
Food Suppliers
Eco Businesses
Cruise Ships
Caravan Parks
Motels
Accommodation
Providers
Bus lines
Ice Works
Service Groups
Bundian Way Project



Cultural

Jigamy Farm
Monaroo Bobberrera
Keeping Place
EKW Museum
Gilyong Festival
Whaling Station
Boyd's Tower
Green Cape Lighthouse
Whale Festival
Seaman's Memorial
National Timber
Worker's Memorial
Museum Committee
Community Radio
Hotel Australasia
Mary MacKillop Hall
Eden Log Cabin
Boydton
Cemeteries
Historians
First Nations Elders
Artists
Murals

Community

Strengths

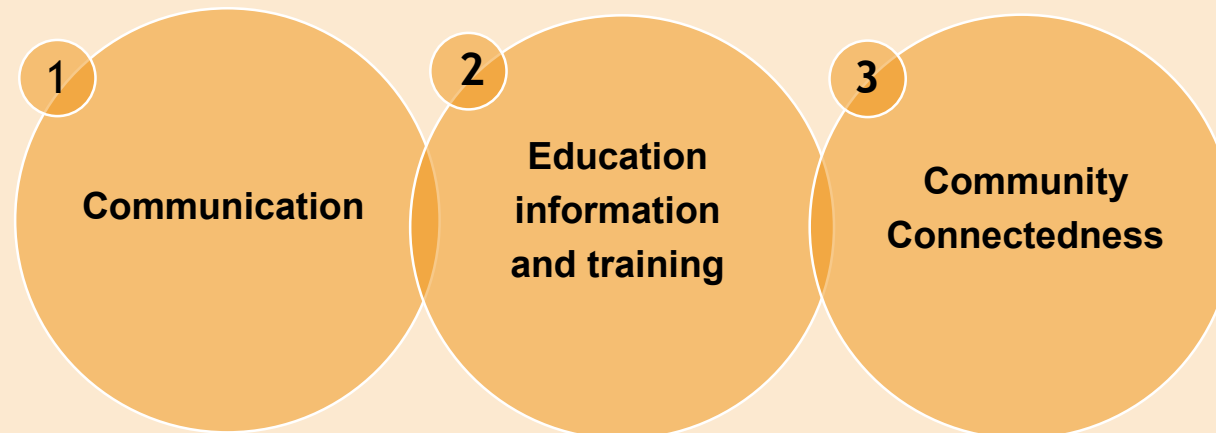
Stronger Together

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategic Plan (DPRRSP) is a key component of the Eden Community Access Centre Disaster Preparedness Project (DPP). The aim of the DPP has been to bring the community together to develop a disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience strategic plan for Eden and surrounding areas. The DPRRSP was developed over two years via sustained engagement with the community and in consultation with emergency services, the community services sector, community groups, and all levels of government. The plan includes a list of identified community priorities, a recommended course of action to build community preparedness, recovery and resilience, and recommendations for governance and sustainability to ensure that the plan remains a living document well into the future.

Community Priorities

Community engagement activities were conducted over a 10-month period. 142 community members were engaged in 17 Community Table Talks (disaster preparedness conversations), and 52 people attended 2 community workshops. Three community priorities were identified:



Recommended Strategic actions

The following strategic actions are recommended as potential ways to build and support community preparedness, recovery and resilience

Communication	Education, information and training	Community connectedness
Partner with emergency services to develop and implement co-led communication strategies	Strengthen relationships between local emergency services and the community with an emphasis on identifying and meeting ongoing education, information and training needs.	Partner with emergency services to create and facilitate initiatives that bring communities together to discuss disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience
Leverage local owned, social and traditional media to disseminate disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience information and promote ongoing conversations about preparedness needs.	Strengthen relationships between relevant government agencies and their representatives and community to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes	Develop and facilitate programs that support and build capacity in community leaders and connectors to further community connection initiatives.
Create opportunities to come together and share personal preparedness information	Develop partnerships with the relevant agencies to support the delivery of immediate post-disaster recovery services	Promote current and future community events that bring community together and encourage positive interactions
Partner and collaborate with emergency services to close agreed gaps in communication between agencies and the community	Promote existing preparedness information and training	Develop and facilitate programs and initiatives that support community connectedness and inclusion
Partner and collaborate with agencies to close agreed gaps in communication between government agencies and departments and the community	Work with agencies to develop and facilitate regular information sessions	
Advocate for increased mobile and fixed internet and connectivity for known black spots and areas of concern.	Work with emergency services to develop programs and initiatives that empower young people to identify and mitigate disaster risk	

Recommendations for governance and sustainability

The plan outlines two key recommendations for delivery of the plan, to ensure it remains a living document that will move these communities closer to achieving their vision of being better prepared and more resilient.

- Ongoing funding and certainty for operationalising the Project Lab from 1 July 2023 until June 2025
- Eden Community Access Centre to take responsibility for leadership and governance and to ensure that desired outcomes in the plan are met.

Vision and Purpose

Vision

For a more resilient Eden and surrounding Villages, a community that is better prepared and able to recover well from future disaster events.

Purpose of the plan

To provide a clear roadmap to guide community toward achievable short-term and long-term goals

To identify and make recommendations about what is required to build confidence, capacity and capabilities to face an uncertain future.

To identify and make recommendations about what is required to empower community to self-organise and lead community-led disaster preparedness

To provide recommendations on strategic actions to support community members to continue to build individual and community preparedness for years to come.

To identify the current relationship between the community and emergency services and make recommendations about how the community can influence and build greater trust and collaboration with decision-makers with the aim of creating shared responsibility for a stronger, better prepared Eden and surrounds.

How the project came about

The 2019-20 bushfires took a heavy toll on our part of the Bega Valley Shire. The staff and volunteers at the Eden Community Access centre spoke with and provided support to hundreds of community members directly after the bushfires. The staff and volunteers discovered that the community felt ill-prepared to face and recover from what had just occurred, leading to protracted feelings of fear and anxiety. The Eden Community Access Centre applied for funding for a Disaster Preparedness Project through the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience fund and was awarded \$300,000 in May 2021. In July 2021, Dr Jodie Stewart was appointed to lead the project over two years.

Project Timeline

May 2021 - Funding awarded to the Eden Community Access Centre
 July 2021 - Disaster Preparedness Coordinator appointed
 August 2021 - Calls for Expression of Interest (EOI) for community committee opened
 September 2021 - First meeting of community committee
 September 2021 - Working Groups appointed
 October 2021 - First meeting of DPP Working Groups
 May 2022 - First Community Table Talk
 May 2022 - First session of Eden Marine High Disaster Preparedness Youth Group
 June 2022 - First Community Table Talk Host Training session
 November 2022 - Resilient Eden Workshops
 January 2023 - First episode of Prepared for Disaster Community Radio program
 February 2023 - First Project Lab session
 March 2023 - First draft of the Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategy is tabled for consultation
 May 2023 - Funding to continue Project Lab secured through ECAC Board of Management
 July 2023 - Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, Resilience Strategic Plan published.



Developing the plan

The aim of the Disaster Preparedness Project was to bring the community together to co-design a Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategic plan for Eden and surrounding areas. Continued and sustained engagement with the community was an essential part of the planning process.

In August 2021, a community committee was formed via an expression of interest process. The committee was made up of interested community members and representatives from community groups and emergency service agencies. The role of the committee was to empower the community through the provision of executive decision making across the project timeline.

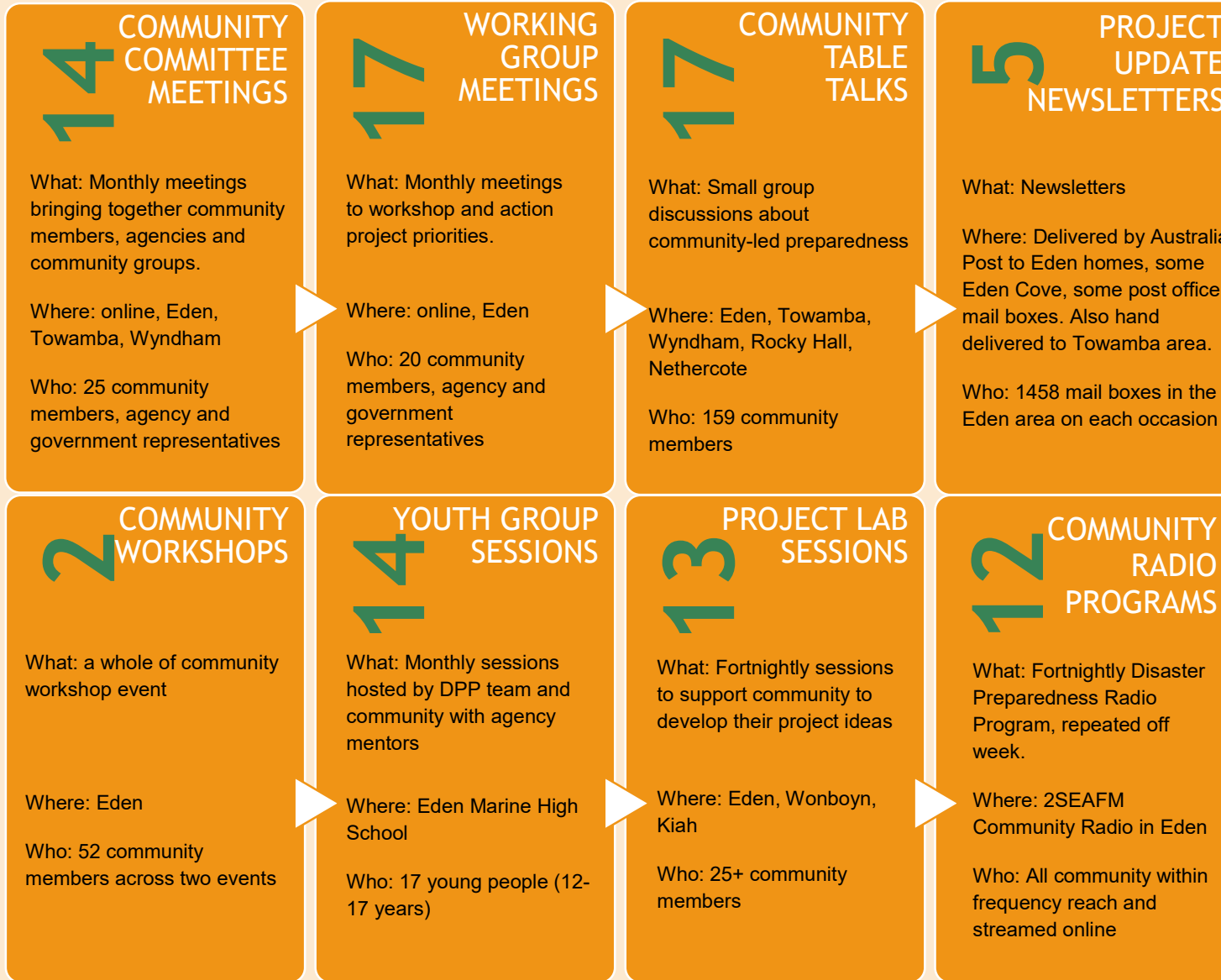
Four working groups were formed to action immediate priorities identified within the project including a communications and community engagement strategy. Working groups were made up of interested community members and representatives from the community services sector and agencies. The first working group meetings were held in October 2021.

In February 2022, the Disaster Preparedness Project team recruited a community engagement working group made up of community members and representatives from community organisations and agencies. The working group worked with professional facilitator David Newell over five weeks (Feb 3 to March 3) to develop a community engagement strategy that would ensure the communities of Eden and surrounds were engaged in meaningful and productive ways toward the co-design of a strategic plan. The purpose of the community engagement strategy was to ensure that:

The community had a meaningful and empowered voice in creating a united community-led approach to an agreed and valued Disaster Preparedness Plan for Eden and surrounds.

It was identified by the working group that community members need to have a voice, and feel they are collaborating and contributing to the project in a meaningful and purposeful way. The above identified need and purpose guided community engagement approaches throughout the project.

Community Engagement Activities



Total participants: 298+

**Total area population: 4730
(based on 2021 census)**

Percentage of population engaged: 6.25%

How to read the Plan

Community priorities → Recommended Strategic Actions → Suggested deliverables (projects, programs and initiatives) → Roles and responsibilities

Success indicators – how we know we got there

SI.1 The needs of vulnerable groups are addressed in disaster preparedness and recovery.

SI.2 The community is aware of the disaster preparedness processes as recommended by emergency services agencies

SI.3 The community is aware of the disaster recovery processes and how to engage with them

SI.4 The community can express its changing disaster recovery needs.

SI.5 Community members are aware of the risks of future disasters.

SI.6 The community has improved capacity and capability to prepare for and respond to future disasters.

SI. 7.The community is empowered to self-organise and lead disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience initiatives for their own communities.



Image: Community have their say on what's important to them, November 2022

Community Priorities

Extensive community engagement was carried out to identify priorities the community believed were important to the development of a disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience strategic plan. Three consistent themes emerged for the communities of Eden and surrounds.

Communication

PRIORITY 1

- Improved communication between community members before, during and after a disaster.
- Improved communication between communities and emergency services before, during and after a disaster
- Improved communications between relevant government agencies and departments and community before, during and after a disaster
- Improved telecommunications connectivity before, during and after a disaster.

Education, information and training

PRIORITY 2

- Education about the role of emergency services and all levels of government before, during and after a disaster
- Regular preparedness training and information sessions conducted by local emergency service organisations
- Education about personal and community preparedness as recommended by emergency services organisations
- All-hazards education and information
- Empowering community to manage and minimise individual and community-wide hazards as recommended by emergency service organisations

Community connectedness

PRIORITY 3

- Increased opportunities for social connection
- Improved connection between community and emergency services
- Connection as a means to support and to safeguard individuals

Priority 1

Communication

Communication between individuals, groups and authorities is a vital part of disaster management before, during and after a disaster. Communities can and do play a role in ensuring that accurate and relevant information is conveyed in an appropriate and timely way.

Community priorities/outcomes	Recommendations for Strategic Action	Potential Projects/ Deliverables	Responsible
C. 1 Improved communication between community members before, during and after a disaster.	<p>Partner with emergency services to develop and implement co-led communication strategies</p> <p>Leverage local owned, social and traditional media to disseminate disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience information and promote ongoing conversations about preparedness needs.</p> <p>Create opportunities for community to come together to share personal preparedness information</p> <p>Develop and reinforce ECAC as an authoritative and trusted local source of information.</p>	<p>Red Cross CRT Personal preparedness guide</p> <p>Prepared for Disaster Community Radio program. ECAC website</p> <p>Red Cross CRT, Community Table Talks, Red Cross CRT information sessions 'Prepared to Party' - neighbourhood street parties, Disaster Preparedness through gaming program, Red Cross' Tales as Old as Time</p>	<p>DPP, Red Cross, Community, Emergency services</p> <p>DPP, ECAC, 2SEA Community Radio</p> <p>DPP, ECAC, Red Cross, Community, DRRYP,</p>

C.2 Improved communications between emergency services and community before, during and after a disaster	Partner and collaborate with agencies to close agreed gaps in communication between agencies and with the community.	Red Cross CRT Annual community preparedness fun days Regular community engagement collaboration sessions	DPP, ECAC, Red Cross, Community, Emergency services
C.3 Improved communications between relevant government agencies and departments and community before, during and after a disaster	Partner and collaborate with agencies to close agreed gaps in communication between government agencies and departments	ECAC meets regularly with relevant agencies ECAC takes on the role as an authoritative local source of information	DPP, ECAC, Red Cross, government, Emergency services, community
C.4 Improved telecommunications connectivity before, during and after a disaster.	Advocate for increased mobile and fixed internet connectivity for known black spots and areas of concern.	Advocacy by ERRA Satellite phone and power back up in ECAC's community hub	ERRA, ECAC, Telcos, Government, community

Outcome	Measure of success
C.1	S.1, S.6, S.7
C.2	S.1, S.2, S.5, S.6
C.3	S.1, S.2, S.5, S.6
C.4	S.1, S.6

Priority 2

Education, information and training

Being well-informed and having access to appropriate, accurate and up-to-date information is essential to personal and community preparedness. Understanding and trusting the roles of emergency services and all levels of governments in disaster has also been identified as an important priority that enables better informed decision-making and planning.

Community priorities/outcomes	Recommendations for Strategic Action	Potential Projects/Deliverables	Responsible
E. 1 Increase understanding of the role of emergency services and all levels of government before, during and after a disaster	<p>Strengthen relationships between local emergency services, government agencies and the community with an emphasis on identifying and meeting ongoing education, information and training needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and promote opportunities for community to come together and connect with emergency services representatives Work with local emergency services to plan and implement programs and projects that empower and educate young people 	<p>Red Cross CRT Prepare Our People (POP) Community Fun day. Disaster Preparedness through gaming program. Eden Marine High disaster preparedness youth group</p> <p>DRRYP</p>	<p>DPP, ECAC, Red Cross, DRRYP, Emergency services, Community</p> <p>ECAC, DPP, DRRYP, Emergency services</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote emergency services community days and events <p>Strengthen relations between relevant government departments and their representatives and the community to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Create and promote opportunities for community to come together and connect with relevant government agencies <p>Develop partnerships with relevant agencies to support the delivery of immediate and ongoing post-disaster recovery services</p>	<p>Prepared for Disaster Community Radio program, ECAC Facebook Page</p> <p>POP Community Fun Day</p>	<p>DPP, ECAC, DRRYP, 2SEA Community Radio</p> <p>DPP, ECAC, Red Cross</p> <p>ECAC, Disaster Recovery agencies, NSW Reconstruction Authority</p>						
<p>E.2 Regular preparedness training and information sessions</p> <table><tr><th>Outcome</th><th>Measure of success</th></tr><tr><td>E.1</td><td>S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6</td></tr><tr><td>E.2</td><td>S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6</td></tr></table>	Outcome	Measure of success	E.1	S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6	E.2	S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6	<p>Promote existing preparedness education and training</p> <p>Work with agencies to develop and facilitate regular information sessions</p> <p>Work with emergency services to develop programs and initiatives that empower young people to identify and mitigate disaster risk</p> <p>Create opportunities for communities to come together and share personal preparedness information</p>	<p>ECAC Disaster Preparedness Calendar of events, Prepared for Disaster Community Radio</p> <p>Pappadums and Preparedness (the first step in setting up a CRT) Red Cross CRT information sessions POP Community Fun Day</p> <p>DRRYP, Disaster Preparedness through gaming program EMH Disaster Preparedness Youth Group</p> <p>Pappadums and Preparedness night Community Table Talks Red Cross CRT information sessions EMH Disaster Preparedness Youth Group</p>	<p>ECAC, DPP, community, 2SEA Community Radio</p> <p>ECAC, DPP, Red Cross, DRRYP</p> <p>ECAC, DPP, DRRYP,</p> <p>Community, DPP, ECAC, DRRYP, Red Cross, Emergency services</p>
Outcome	Measure of success								
E.1	S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6								
E.2	S.2, S.3, S.5, S.6								

Priority 3

Community connectedness

Research* into disaster resilience in communities demonstrates that well-connected and socially cohesive communities are better equipped to withstand and recover from disaster events. Well-connected communities are also better placed to care for their most vulnerable members and often have strong networks for communication and information sharing. ECAC plays a pivotal role connecting the community with a spectrum of community hub services. ECAC leads and auspices the Eden Recovery and Resilience Alliance (ERRA), which draws together the Eden Visitors Information Centre, ECAC, the Chamber of Commerce and interested individuals and employs a part time community development officer.

*see for example, Paul Arbour, 'Developing a model and tool to measure disaster resilience', *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, vol.24, no.4 (2014).

“WELL CONNECTED AND SOCIALLY COHESIVE COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO WITHSTAND AND RECOVER FROM DISASTER EVENTS”

Address social inequities, and vulnerabilities and buffering economic resources

Community participation in assessing and generating problem lists and solutions

The capacity of support services to respond with efficacy to a crisis

Establishing buffers for existing social supports

Establishing trusted and flexible communication networks to enhance community response to future unknown insults

These five actions are indicated in the Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub as a model offered for the use of adaptive capacities to enhance community resilience, specifically in reference to disaster response (Norris F, Stevens SP, Pfefferbaum B, Wyche KF & Pfefferbaum RL 2008, Community resilience as a metaphor, theory, set of capacities, and strategy for disaster readiness. *American journal of community psychology*, 41, pp. 127-150.).

EDEN & SURROUNDS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

Community priorities/outcomes		Recommended Strategic Actions	Potential Projects/Deliverables	Responsible
CC.1 Improved opportunities for social connection		Partner with emergency services to create and facilitate programs and initiatives that bring communities together to discuss disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience	EMH Disaster Preparedness Youth group, Red Cross CRT info sessions	Community, DPP, ECAC, Red Cross
CC.2 Improved connection between community and agencies				
CC.3 Connection as a means to support and safeguard individuals		Create and facilitate programs and initiatives that support and build capacity in community leaders and connectors.	Community Table Talk host training, Red Cross CRT.	DPP, ECAC, Red Cross, Community
		Promote current and future community events that bring community together and encourage positive interactions	Disaster Preparedness Calendar of events, Prepared for Disaster Community Radio program, Tales as Old as Time, POP Community Fun day, 'Prepare to Party' - neighbourhood street parties	DPP, ECAC, 2SEA Community Radio
		Create and facilitate programs and initiatives that support community-connectedness and inclusion.	POP Community Fun day, 'Prepare to Party' - neighbourhood street parties	DPP, ECAC, DRRYP, emergency services, Red Cross, Community
		Better integration of the Project Lab with ERRA activities	Development of the proposed community hub at the Gateway Centre	ECAC, ERRA, BVSC,
		Continued support for ERRA and resourcing of the Community Development Officer position	Continual development of community projects through the Project Lab, to enhance resilience and connectedness	ECAC, ERRA, Community Development Officer, Community

Outcome	Measure of success
CC.1	S.1, S.6, S.7
CC.2	S.1, S.2, S.3,S.4,S.5, S.6
CC.3	S.1, S.6, S.7

Recommendations for delivering on desired outcomes: governance and sustainability

Community self-organising for action via appropriate organisational leadership

There is a critical role to be played by a peak local community service organisation in the long-term stewardship of the strategic plan. Community-led disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience is reliant on community stepping-up, self-organising and actioning the agreed steps and strategies required to foster and enable greater preparedness and the ability to recover well from future disasters. This work should be guided by a local organisation with the appropriate ethos and funding to commit to this work over the longer-term.

Recommendation 1. That a local community organisation commits to long-term disaster preparedness leadership.

ECAC is the only local body that can effectively take on this role. However, core operational funding is essential to realising desired outcomes and managing governance. Since the 2019 fires ECAC has auspiced and facilitated a range of recovery and resilience projects including: All Hands and Hearts, ERRA, DPP, Eden Canoes, Rural Support Workers, Eden Trails and a wide range of other smaller community projects in Eden and surrounding communities (see appendix).

Outcome: In June 2023 the Eden Community Access Centre committed to leading this work into the future.

It is important to recognise the lack of appropriate resources for governance and delivery of the plan and community-led collaborative activities such as the Project Lab. In recent years ECAC has pulled together resources for this work from its reserves and from a range of different sources and stakeholders, but this is a challenge for sustainability. Work with government agencies is needed to create lasting solutions, learning from interstate examples such as the Queensland Neighbourhood Centres, Strategy for Bush Fire Resilience 2021 to 2023.

In fact, ECAC does not receive any ongoing core funding for its crucial work as a community hub or for ongoing community development activities. Eden also currently does not have adequate fit for purpose infrastructure to support and promote collaborative community development activities.

The need for a physical hub to support community self-organisation

ECAC is the recognised community hub for Eden and surrounds and the driver of community-led disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience work through its day-to-day community services and tools such as the Project Lab and ERRA.

ECAC is working with Council on the steps required to develop a physical community hub to provide a place for co-located services and for the community and different organisations to come together. The community hub vision is a fit for purpose, adequately sized building, housing key social infrastructure with the goal of strengthening relationships and referrals between the services and to support the needs of the community. The community hub should be a welcoming and dynamic place with flexible, agile spaces and good IT infrastructure to promote social, community, innovation, and business services to come together to drive and support local social and economic development. A fit for purpose hub would host the Project Lab and ERRA and provide a platform for collaboration and sustaining an integrated community development framework. The hub would:

Provide

- Support and mentorship to develop community-led projects
- A space to come together and work collaboratively on shared priorities
- A hub and incubator to plan and implement community projects

Collaborate

- Forge project-based partnerships with community, key agencies, organisations, and all level of governments
- Support social cohesion - provide a space for community members to connect via shared goals and aspirations
- Connect community and project teams with the relevant agencies, organisations and community groups to ensure project success

Recommendation 2: That the Project Lab continues to be funded to make sure community preparedness projects are supported.

Funding should be sufficient for core work in Eden and to continue to provide services in the small and isolated communities surrounding Eden including, Wyndham, Nethercote, Towamba, Rocky Hall, Kiah and Wonboyn.

Outcome: A combination of funding from the Eden Community Access Centre and the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal means the Eden Project Lab will remain operational for a further 12 months from 1 July 2023, however ongoing funding and certainty for ECAC is essential.

The Project Lab and ERRA: an integrated framework for community development

The Project Lab is an important tool for bringing community members together for project development. The Lab is a place for people to come together for support to develop disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience project ideas. Project ideas developed at the Eden Project Lab align with the priorities outlined in the Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (DPRRS) and if successfully implemented, will directly address strategic actions in the DPRRS. Furthermore, integrating the Lab with ERRA and the CDO role has the potential to create a powerful, collaborative framework for developing a range of community-led projects across the full spectrum of community interests and needs.

Recommendation 3: That ongoing attention be given to strengthening collaborative relationships between the community and governments and emergency agencies.

Outcome: In June 2023 the Eden Community Access Centre committed to continuing this important work.

The DPP team and key project stakeholders identified that working collaboratively with key agencies and organisations would be critical to the delivery of the Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience strategic plan and ensuring that key community priorities and outcomes are met. Working collaboratively is where the community, key organisations and agencies work together on shared objectives via agreed strategies and delivery methods.

A collaborative model of delivery would include communities working closely with the relevant agencies and organisations to ensure that the goal of building a better prepared and more resilient community could be achieved in the short and long term. This partnership model would also need to be supported and coordinated by ECAC. This includes:

- a) Partnering with emergency services and government agencies to close resource and capacity gaps
- b) Advocating across all levels with key decision makers about the vital role that community plays in disaster preparedness.

OUTCOMES OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS

Success will be measured by:

1. Leadership by ECAC, a trusted peak community entity committed to ensuring the ongoing funding and resourcing of the living strategic plan. ECAC agreed to take on this role in June 2023
2. Achieving ongoing funding for ECAC and its community hub activities, embedding the Project Lab and other related community mechanisms for planning and actioning preparedness and resilience.
3. A trusted working partnership between the community, emergency services and government agencies resulting in effective community preparedness, enactment of recommended response actions, a strong and confident community, working to maximise the protection of lives and property.



Image: Disaster Relief Australia provide the Project Lab community members with some context, February 2023

Image: Everyone gets a voice at Project Labs



Image: Projects come together with a brains trust at Project Labs

Image: The Project Lab is abuzz with ideas



APPENDIX

Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience projects

From June 2022 to June 2023, the DPP team began developing programs and projects aimed at addressing priorities expressed by community members during community engagement events. Projects and programs were developed and implemented in collaboration with community, agencies and organisations.

Project title	Description	Target	Responsible	Partner	Funding	Status	Community Priority
The Project Lab	Fortnightly sessions supporting community to develop, implement and lead community projects	All of community Eden and surrounds	DPP, ECAC, Community	BVSC	DPP	in-progress	Community connectedness; Communication; Education, information and training
The Prepared for Disaster Community Radio program	Fortnightly radio program about communities and the role that they can and do play in disasters	All of community Eden and surrounds	DPP, ECAC, 2SEA Community Radio, Community	2SEA Community Radio	DPP	in-progress	Communication; Education, information and training
The Disaster Preparedness through Gaming program	21 week program working alongside emergency services to develop an educational tool for other young people	Eden Marine High (EMH) school students (12-17yrs) Eden and surrounds	DPP, EMH, DRRYP, UOW, Campbell Page, RFS	Eden Game Development Centre, EMH, UOW, Campbell Page, RFS, EMH	NSW Office of Regional Youth, FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants, Bega Valley Innovation Hub	in-progress	Community connectedness; Communication; Education, information and training

Youth-led Disaster Risk Reduction project	2yr funded project to empower young people to lead disaster risk reduction initiatives for their community	Young people (12-24yrs) Eden and surrounds	DPP, ECAC	TBA	NSW Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (Local & Regional Risk Reduction Stream)	in-progress	Community connectedness; Communication; Education, information and training.
Disaster Preparedness Youth Group	6mth program. Working with young people and community mentors to develop community-led disaster preparedness projects	EMH students (12-17yrs) Eden and surrounds	DPP, ECAC, DRRYP	Campbell Page Eden, BVSC, EMH	DPP, BVSC	complete	Community connectedness; Communication; Education, information and training
Community Table Talks	Small community-led conversations about disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience	All of community	DPP, ECAC, Community	Red Cross	DPP	complete	Community connectedness; Communication
Table Talk Community Host training	Full day training hosted by David Newell to upskill community members in hosting disaster preparedness conversations	All of community	DPP		DPP	complete	Community connectedness; Education, information and training
Red Cross CRT information sessions	Information sessions hosted by the Australian Red Cross providing information about Red Cross Community-led Resilience teams (CRT)	Eden Cove community, Wyndham	Red Cross, DPP		DPP	complete	Community connectedness; Education, information and training; Communication
Pappadums and Preparedness	A community curry night including facilitated discussions about community-led disaster preparedness	Eden Cove community	DPP, Red Cross		DPP	complete	Community connectedness; Communication; Education, information and training

Disaster Preparedness Calendar of events - Eden and surrounds	A 12mth calendar disseminated monthly featuring disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience events	All of community	DPP, ECAC		DPP	complete	Communication; Education information and training
Tales as Old as Time	Community event including a panel of long-term Eden and surrounds residents sharing their stories and experiences of life in the area including stories of past disasters	All of community	DPP, Red Cross	Eden Killer Whale Museum	DPP, Red Cross, Eden Killer Whale Museum	complete	Community connectedness; Education information and training
Prepare our People: Community Fun Day	Community event to bring community together connect, have fun and gain vital preparedness information from activities hosted by local emergency services	All of community	DPP, Red Cross	Anglicare, ECoC, Reclink, PCYC, BVSC	DPP, Red Cross, Anglicare, Mumbulla Foundation, PCYC, ECoC	complete	Community connectedness; Education, information and training



Image: Prepare Our People Community Fun Day, June 2023



Image: Prepared for Disaster radio program on 2SEA Community Radio, April 2023



Image: Happier Together, an EMH Disaster Youth Group project, June 2023

ECAC's other Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Resilience projects

Since 2019 ECAC has conducted, facilitated and auspiced a range of recovery and resilience projects

Project Title	Description	Target	Responsible	Funding	Status
Rural Support Workers	Support and tangible assistance across the BVSC	People who lost homes and who were traumatised by the fires	ECAC	Coordinare	Completed, ongoing need
All Hands and Hearts	Help for people who lost houses, particularly building sanitation units	People who lost houses and infrastructure	ECAC, AHAH	Philanthropy	Completed
Eden Trails (now Gravity Eden)	58km of Mountain bike trails for community and economic development	Economic Diversification	ECAC, Eden Mountain Bike Club	BLERF	Construction completed. Ongoing implementation
Eden Canoes	Training to build canoes. This ground-breaking Indigenous youth initiative is a culturally safe place allowing participants to be themselves in the present as they respect and honour their long and vibrantly enduring traditions.	Indigenous youth	ECAC, Anglicare, Eden Marine High, Twofold Aboriginal Corporation	BLERF	Funding completed, ongoing implementation
ERRA	Champion relevant community projects and ideas, facilitate connections amongst business, government agencies and community groups and work to listen to and engage with the needs, hopes and concerns of community members as we face an uncertain future together	Community	ECAC, Chamber of Commerce, EVIC	Nil	Ongoing

Community Development Officer	Development of community led ERRA projects	Community	ERRA and ECAC	Various including Business Council of Australia	Ongoing, subject to resources
Wonboyn Tennis Courts	Resurfacing of the Wonboyn Tennis Courts and construction of a shelter.	Community	ECAC	Community Enterprise Foundation via the Pambula Merimbula Lions Club	Completed
Fire Across the Water	Production of a book commemorating the experiences of the Wonboyn community during and after the 2019/2020 bushfires.	Community	ECAC	Mumbulla Foundation, FRRR, ECAC	Completed
Rocky Hall NSW Up Against The Elements	Production of a photo book historical record of the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires, the recovery since, along with a history of previous fires and drought conditions that led to the fires.	Community	ECAC	Mumbulla Foundation	Completed
Kiah Tennis Court Upgrade and Family Sporting Activities	Cleaning of tennis courts and supply of sporting equipment for the community of Kiah for use at their tennis courts and in the Community Hall when it is rebuilt. Equipment such as soccer, football, tennis, table tennis, cricket, darts, basketball, bocce, swingball, jump rope, hookey, hula hoops	Kiah community	ECAC	Bega Valley Black Summer Bushfires Community Recovery Contribution Program Round 2	Completed



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The Australian Red Cross
 Eden Rural Fire Service
 Eden State Emergency Service
 Eden Marine Rescue
 Eden Marine High School
 Campbell Page Eden
 Eden Chamber of Commerce
 ESSCI
 Headspace
 Twofold Aboriginal Corporation
 Bega Valley Shire Council
 Disability Trust
 NIAA
 Imagine Eden
 Eden Fire & Rescue

And the many members of the community who took an active role in ensuring that we had a voice.



EDEN & SURROUNDS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

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