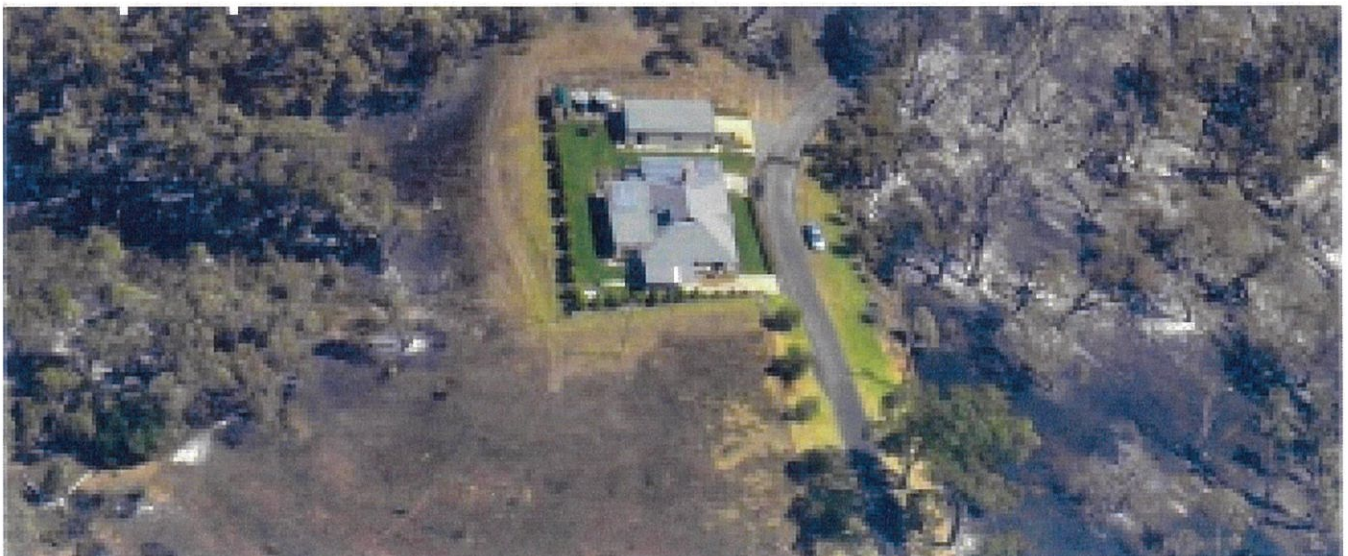


Build a Disaster Army, and they will come, the Australian Disaster Alliance as an alternative Commonwealth Capability for Crisis Response.

A response to the National Emergency Management Agency Discussion Paper – August 2023.

Written by David Ayles *BEmergMgt* – Founder of the Australian Disaster Alliance.



Introduction

It must be firstly noted that I have been attempting since 2008 to meet with Local, State and Federal politicians on the need for a community-led, private sector disaster army, after being impacted by a disaster myself. This drove me onto a research path to prove the concept, which led to the awarding of the 2017 Resilient Australia Award in Queensland for our innovative approach to *disaster task management* with our trial run of the Minimum Viable Product of our service during the 2017 Cyclone Debbie disaster.

The response, if any from the above mentioned has been less than satisfactory, therefore I must acknowledge those who have been with us along the way in trying to establish this disaster army, particularly as many politicians have been discussing and/ or arguing for such an army each time a crisis occurs, yet continue to ignore a solution that is literally under their noses.

I also acknowledge the victims of disasters since the idea of our disaster army was born, we certainly now are more than ten years behind because of the negligence from our leaders, and I pray that this discussion paper response creates an opportunity for acknowledgement and recognition for the initiative to begin really moving forward for communities at risk.

Spending Comparisons

Let us consider the Australian Government 'reactive' responses to unknown crisis events such as the COVID-19 pandemic of \$291 Billion, as of May 2021 (Treasury, 2023) and the AUKUS Defence Pact announced in collaboration with the United States and United Kingdom, with an announced potential spend forecast of \$268 - \$368 Billion (Hurst & Borger, 2023). The cost for these programs could be debatable in their need, and the government of the day will have their reasons for such spends, however they *are* reactive in the way they were announced based on the unknown, certainly to the public anyway in relation to the AUKUS agreement.

Compare the above spending however, to a *known crisis* of national disaster events in Australia, which currently cost \$38 Billion per year, with an estimated forecast of \$73 Billion per year by 2060 (Agency, 2023), it can be argued that we are on the wrong side of history

and thinking when it comes to cost management and need to dramatically increase spending on mitigation, compared to 'reactive' responses in a region known to be at risk of disasters each and every year.

If the government were to spend even 5-10% of the COVID-19 response or AUKUS agreement on disaster mitigation and a community-led army, we would be in a much better space and could class ourselves as a global leader in disaster resilience and response for generations to come. As (Agency, 2023) states, "for every \$1.00 invested through resilience initiatives, there is an estimated \$9.60 return on investment". Our initiative has been presented to all levels of government on *how* our business can provide a return on any investment and the reply, apart from a few has been mute.

Since 2008, the only responses that have started coming through with regular contact has been from some staff who work for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Both continue to refer me to each other, or request I begin working with my local council, which is the Mackay Regional Council to apply for a grant through the Disaster/ Emergency Response Fund (separate to any funding the council is already eligible independently to apply for), which could then be submitted to the QRA for forwarding to the Emergency Management Minister for consideration.

The Mackay Regional Council to date has officially refused to meet with me, apart from a few councillors who maintain contact in the hope of working with us in future. The process has begun of attempting other council regions, however the feeling is that we are competing with funding they might try and go for, therefore any chance of meeting with us is limited to zero at best.

I see in many of these local, state and federal announcements and even conferences the theme of 'collaboration' with the private sector, however practically this is rarely seen in my experience and only a select few make it to the discussion table. Case in point would be our repeated attempts to attend the 2023 National Bushfire Preparedness Summit in Canberra in September, 2023. The response was zero, until I voiced obvious frustration based on our capabilities and the dangers of the upcoming bushfire season, with a NEMA Assistant Advisor for Emergency Management eventually replying acknowledging on how we would

have “valuable contributions to the discussion” and “your best course of action would be to make a submission to the NEMA discussion paper”.

The only problem is, I have submitted numerous times the complete explanation of *what* we do, and *how* we can be a solution moving forward in being the disaster army Australia needs, with an initial investment bringing jobs, an engaged national community of prepared stakeholders, a stronger workforce of volunteers and bolstered physical capabilities to be able to assist pre, during and post disaster events – not only in Australia, but for our allies and friends globally also. This initial investment would allow us to scale the initiative and expand to other regions that have shown interest such as New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, California and Hawaii.

Recommendations: A significant increase in national *mitigation* spending of at least a minimum of 5% of the budget for the AUKUS agreement by the local, state and federal governments and insurance companies. An explanation of why will be provided as this discussion response continues. A significant increase of investment in start-up and private sector organisations in the disaster management space is also strongly recommended. There are ample opportunities for businesses like ours to create and design innovative, exportable projects that can bring initiatives and inventions that save lives as well as bring economic benefit to the national economy.

An investment group called ‘Beaten Zone’ is making significant waves in investments that will innovate and improve the lethality of our Defence Force, and the same benefits are possible in the disaster management sector. The myth of businesses making profit from disaster management needs to be killed off, as from experience, most private sector organisations in our space are former defence or emergency service workers trying to improve resilience, and profits are put back into communities and the economy they serve, just as our initiative does.

Significant investment is also recommended into initiatives by Australian Universities who have initiatives and dedicated students and staff working in the emergency management space. A lost opportunity example was the establishment of the Emergency Response Innovation Centre (ERIC) by the CQ University at the Townsville Campus in Queensland. This centre was to “oversee and strengthen collaboration between emergency services,

councils, defence force, industry and the university" (University, 2021). This centre was closed shortly after establishment due to lack of funding into the initiative. As a private sector business in this space, we will be establishing our own ERIC with the goal of achieving the vision CQ University had, and will invest in the re-establishment of the program at the campus.

Australian Defence Force (ADF)

It is acknowledged by the author that the ADF provide a pivotal role currently for disaster response in Australia, however it is not the role of the defence force and it shouldn't have to be when options are available to mitigate the reliance on our service women and men during crisis events.

The impact on defence assets to respond to disasters should also be considered in establishing a community-led, private sector disaster army workforce. Take for example the army's MRH-90 utility helicopters that were put to use during the 2019-20 bushfires. The operating cost "works out to around \$30,000 per hour (not including the ADF personnel involved in operating or maintaining it)" (Hellyer, 2020). These assets are purchased for a service life of approximately 30 years of warfighting, and it has been argued that constant response to disasters is having a significant impact on the service life of defence assets as well as recruitment of soldiers into the defence force.

"A twin-engine civilian helicopter of the kind used by rural fire services costs around \$2,000 or 3,000 per hour. Most military aircraft are not designed for around-the-clock operations. Civilian aircraft are designed to fly all day, every day. MRH-90s currently average a little over 200 flying hours per year; civilian aircraft can achieve that in a month" (Hellyer, 2020).

It won't happen overnight, however our organisation will be looking to use our growth and funds to purchase and lease aviation and other assets for disaster mitigation, response and recovery operations, including early conversations with defence on how we can 'pay for service' if required of defence assets so that we can service our members and stakeholders as needed on an 'on-call' basis.

We have a solution to create a full time and on-call workforce for disaster management in each region we operate in, as well as select equipment ready for use that will not just sit idle

in sheds somewhere, but put to use in everyday tasks until called upon for a crisis. An example of where fire fighting assets and an aviation fire fighting force had opportunity for success, yet has not seen the light of day was post the 2019-20 bushfire crisis where the Linfox transport company in Australia and Coulson Aviation in Canada were going to partner up to establish a consortium for fighting bushfires.

“The proposed fleet of large, fixed wing air tankers, super heavy helicopters, and fire intelligence gathering aircraft will be based and operated throughout the State and Territories in Australia, with maintenance and support infrastructure supplied in New South Wales and Victoria.

The team intends to work with State Governments, Territories, emergency services agencies, and within any framework agreed by the Federal Government. Australia has one of the largest volunteer firefighting forces in the world. They intend to build a world class training facility and centre of excellence for volunteers to create a strong, intelligence-led and informed approach to firefighting.

The 365 day a year fleet is intended to offer firebombing, intelligence gathering, and aerial firefighting support services during the fire seasons, but also search and rescue, surveillance, and medical evacuation services at other times” (Gabbert, 2020).

Since this announcement was made, which I’m sure was a passionate plea for funding and support in desperation due to the unfolding events has gone nowhere. I have made initial contact with Coulson Aviation to re-establish the initiative once we are established as Australia’s Disaster Force.

Recommendations: The Defence Strategic Review has argued for the reduction in the reliance on the ADF and have announced that they will be deployed as a ‘last resort’ for disaster response. Without going into the argument too much, I am concerned the already bottom-top-bottom approach to requests for assistance may be delayed even longer than the 2019-20 crisis.

It is recommended that the ADF are provided with significant investment increases into civil aircraft and integration/ training that could provide a cheaper alternative during disaster events for similar operations.

It is recommended also that the ADF is given an opportunity to meet and work with our organisation as well as the Australian Red Cross and Disaster Relief Australia for example more regularly on drills and exercises, such as Talisman Sabre, where we would be able to work in with and integrate with other allied nations on disaster management. If an extra 2-3 days of exercises purely for disaster management and zero war-fighting drills were added, it would be a great return on the skills, knowledge, and experiences of all involved as well as promoting a true message of collaboration and working towards a peaceful, rules-based order in the region.

It is well known that our organisation is looking to build High Speed Disaster Vessels, based off a catamaran design that can hold a helicopter, large numbers of personnel and vehicles/ stores. There is also a Hospital Ship Variant which, when deployed can provide a rapid response and assist us as a nation in our 'soft power' capabilities. I received a response from Buckingham Palace for our request to name a vessel after Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Hospital Variant after the Princess of Wales. I was told to contact the Governor General of Australia to make a formal request through them, which I have done.

It is recommended that the government take an opportunity to invest in these vessels proposed, as we would be able to deploy humanitarian assets and personnel more quickly and in collaboration with current organisations, as well as project 'soft power' into the region by providing medical care for free and assistance during a disaster.

Another benefit of supporting our Disaster Army would see the handover of any of the above assets to the ADF if conflict was to break out, adding a two-sided benefit on any investment. This would include drones, aviation, and vehicle assets as well as any vessel.



Image. 1



Image. 2



Image. 3

(Image. 1 & 2 – High Speed Disaster Vessel Queen Elizabeth II (HSDV Queen Elizabeth II)

Image. 3 HSDV Princess of Wales – Concepts of Vessels that we aim to have built in Australia by Austal Shipbuilding) (Austal, 2023).

Volunteer Organisations/ Emergency Services

Apart from the established emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance; organisations such as the Red Cross and State Emergency Services were established as civil defence originally to respond to war recovery and recognition by authorities of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. Over time as disasters occurred, these organisations have become greatly relied upon for disaster response and recovery, and the author humbly respects the work these organisations do in our communities.

Volunteers certainly love what they do and the spirit of volunteerism is what shapes us as a nation to this day. However, as a volunteer myself, I'm sure my colleagues would agree that we would prefer to never have to be called to assist or respond. We do so anyhow and do it because often there are no other choices when a disaster overwhelms and devastates a community.

The problem is, that we are being called upon more and more as climate change increases the compounding disasters that impact our communities. Each organisation has their own doctrines, policies and often communication assets. There is also unlimited stories and experiences unfortunately of 'red tape', dwindling numbers of volunteers due to no recognition of prior learning and frustrations that come from 'overkill' in training requirements to be able to respond to disasters.

This is where you find individuals respond spontaneously anyway in their community, most often than not with no insurance, little training and sadly, some who have alternative and illegal agendas masked behind an image of wanting to help.

From experience, when these volunteers are requested to help within the community, the stakeholder making the request is told to 'contact a contractor' or that the task simply won't be able to be attended to because of insurance risk to the volunteer organisation. They certainly strive to attend each request made as a welfare check, however volunteers are mainly tasked to provide:

"Temporary emergency assistance to help people protect themselves and their property from further damage in circumstances such as:

- damaged walls, windows or roofs
- trees down blocking access
- rising flood water
- any storm damage that may be a threat to life or property" (QFES, 2023).

Further, the Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) for example does not provide assistance for:

- debris clean up
- flooded roads
- blocked council drains
- obstructions on a road or footpath
- pot holes and sinkholes

- sewage overflows
- burst water mains
- power outages and power lines down
- phone lines down
- car towing/removal from creek, ditch or other area
- fences, sheds and yards
- generators
- property inspections
- tree lopping and removal
- unoccupied residential properties
- water pumps

This is where the Australian Disaster Alliance has an opportunity to work in collaboration with all volunteer organisations to provide this assistance to stakeholders, because these are the requests made by affected people and businesses, with a rapid response with these tasks having the ability to reduce damage and impact from a disaster event, which in effect saves economic dollars and costs for insurance companies.

An example of how this works successfully currently would be CareFlight Helicopter bases in operation in Australia. CareFlight bases such as Mackay's RACQ CQ Rescue Service conduct the fundraising and is partly funded by corporate organisations and the Queensland Government, however the actual helicopters, pilots, engineers, etc are tendered out and paid to a **company** called Babcock Australasia.

We have a similar Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an Australian charity to provide disaster task management to anyone who requests assistance through their organisation. We provide a two-hour response time compared to the current three days communities are told they may have to wait to have someone come to their door to assist.

Communities are also at risk during and post disasters of a 'second or third' disaster with unknown contractors, defence force personnel or interstate volunteers and donations that aren't appropriate flooding the impacted area reacting to assist. Our approach is to have already prepared local personnel, contractors, assets and plans in place with our stakeholders so that they know the people attending their door and us knowing who we are assisting and what needs they may have.

Recommendations: Significant investment and consideration by all levels of government, charities, emergency services and insurance companies into collaboration with our organisation so that any time a request for assistance is made, if your organisation cannot assist based on your policies, insurance coverage or other issues, the Australian Disaster Alliance can fill those needs under our insurance and skilled paid full-time and surge staff, with your organisations banner on the uniforms of those who respond, as is in place with our current charity MOU. Our aim is to limit the amount of "no's" or "we cannot assist with that" to "we are on our way". As will be explained in the next section, most tasks come at a cost that can be shared if minor, with our members having options for immediate assistance, with support available for repairs using recover now, pay later options as the affected person awaits assistance from their insurance company or through government support.

It is also recommended that all levels of government, insurance companies and charity groups such as the Red Cross, Disaster Relief Australia and the SES collaborate with us on training opportunities. There are grants available for volunteers and former serving defence members on training courses and we offer nationally recognised options such as the RII30719 - Certificate III in Emergency Response and Rescue and HLT21020 - Certificate II in Medical Service First Response. We offer these under our Emergency Management Academy at a high school in Queensland and the benefits for volunteer groups to boost their knowledge and training will increase the ability to respond to disaster events, particularly if delivered in a block period compared to several months/ years and avoids absenteeism of certain material and volunteers leaving.

All stakeholders are invited to work with us, as we have initiatives in place or in development that will provide a quicker and more broader scope of services to more people in a disaster, and our aim is not to replace current organisations, but to complement and reduce the such large hours volunteers are putting into crisis events, with this only expected to increase in the future.

Volunteers should only be a last resort also, whilst not impacting their funding, training or response capabilities. We only aim to prepare communities and disengaged homeowners, provide a 24/7/365 capability that supports and complements current services and work in collaboration so that no one misses out. As shown on the cover of this discussion paper, it shouldn't matter what your socio-economic background is or electorate you live in, everyone should be able to survive the loss of their property and injury from disaster events.

What is the Australian Disaster Alliance/ 1300DISASTER?

Imagine you have been impacted by a flood event, with your property doing relatively ok until a car comes down your street sightseeing and sends a wave of water through your unit, as your front door was open to dry out your property.

The day to follow involves discussions with your insurance company with them insisting your carpets get ripped up and raising all furniture to avoid losing everything to mould. You call the SES and put in a request for assistance with ripping up the carpets and lifting items and told they won't be able to assist, and to call a contractor. *"That's ok, they are only volunteers!"* 😊

You have no family/ friends to assist as they are dealing with their own issues and you use up your last 15% of battery life trying to organise contractors with no luck, not including other issues you have. The end result is losing everything to mould and an insurance payout of \$38,000 from your insurance company.

Three days later, volunteers come by and conduct a welfare check, and you are glad you are the only person your war-widow neighbour was able to count on for welfare, food and any needs as she has no family left and her care organisation had staff shortages due to the disaster anyway.

This is a true story that impacted myself during the 2008 flooding event in Mackay. I would have paid money to any service that could assist me during this time, particularly as I had a baby at the time and was concerned for her health.

I thought I could help with my skills so I joined my local SES branch. Unfortunately they did not recognise my prior fire and rescue or rescue helicopter aircrewman skills, therefore I spent the next six months attending each Monday starting from scratch with skills I already knew and couldn't attend events or disasters based on the insurance limits compared to their recognised skills of mine. I left due to the red tape many volunteers have experienced.

Fast forward to today, and the Australian Disaster Alliance provides the 1300DISASTER (1300 347 278) phone number as a disaster task management assistance membership service, with translation services available. With my story above, if a service like this was available, I would have been prepared for the flood with instant sandbags in my cupboard, and emergency kit in place with the included water/ fire proof safe that is included with one of the packages available. I would have a phone battery bank available to keep my phone charged, however if it did get down to 15% I would be able to call 1300DISASTER with all of my issues that I need assistance with such as carpets being ripped up, lopping of a fallen tree, lifting of furniture, evacuating my family and pets, providing food and care packages as well as hiring a generator until power is reconnected for both myself and my war widow neighbour.

Because I am a member, I get a discount on all services provided, the work is local and I receive \$1 back on every \$10 spent in resilience rewards, redeemable for gift vouchers of my choosing or a prepaid debit card.

The Australian Disaster Alliance is working with local businesses and individuals to establish a network of providers and anyone with a skill that can assist pre, during and in the long term recovery from disaster events, to which we pay for their time, accomodation, training, insurance and other costs in responding to our requests. Our stakeholders pay an initial fee for us to provide a risk assesmnet of their property, which we have recommended they use to get a discount on their insurance premium based off the assessment and any improvements that are made to their resilience. We are establishing a full time response

team in each region who are always busy conducting assessments and improvement activities, as well as an army of local surge resources/ contractors who can assist us when we become overwhelmed. Our surveys and research has proven that stakeholders are willing and able to pay for a response if it is quicker and meets their needs, particularly if they are rewarded for it and if the membership is tax-deductible, which it is.

We are currently door knocking in Mackay, Queensland and successfully educating the disengaged community to be educated in what I call 'peacetime' so that they know what to do in 'wartime' (disaster events). With each property that is not prepared, we are instantly improving their resilience by providing a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, snake bite bandages, fire/ waterproof safe and a Provide Cardiopulmonary Certificate, depending on the package they choose.

Depending on their risk, we are able to securely map the area on who is at risk which can be shared with other responding services/ organisations so they can be responded to quicker with my neighbours' risk as an example of **RED**. This map is using D4H, which is an emergency management software used by emergency services globally to respond to disaster and emergency events. This map is also live so we know who has evacuated, needs assistance and can determine whether their risk category has improved or decreased based on local knowledge.



Image. 4 - Example only of a suburb in Mackay with homes indetified, and their risk.

We are also establishing an Emergency Management Academy in Australia, with the first participating high school in Mackay, Queensland. This academy will provide nationally recognised certificates, such as those mentioned above, with points going towards students Queensland Certificate of Education for Queensland. Students will also conduct volunteer and paid community service and disaster management, attend disaster conferences and become eligible for scholarships for further career choices.

The academy is available to provide first aid training to students from year 6 onwards, and we are also providing basic first aid, resilience and home safety education to kindy - year 6 students, providing younger people with the first response skills that have been proven invaluable to emergencies at home in previous years such as choking or small fires.



Image. 5 – Mackay High School
Principal announcing Academy.



Image. 6 – A local Mackay Kindy safety program

As we are a business, we also have the ability to utilise services such as Humm – buy now pay later initiatives that can assist stakeholders in getting tasks managed immediately with an option of a payment plan, compared to more damage being incurred due to lack of funds or responses from insurance/ government to the disaster event.



We can invest in initiatives and equipment immediately without having to rely or wait on red tape. If a cost is justified compared to the need at hand, we can purchase/ lease based on the circumstance at hand. Examples include our early talks with Thales to redesign and begin a production line of the Bushmaster inspired FireKing fire truck, developed in partnership between them and the CSIRO and proven to be the world's safest fire truck. Once established, we would look to export and lease these vehicles to our allies. We are also in talks with a United Kingdom company to provide heavy duty drones that can be used for disaster relief supply drops of up to 300kg for an hour of flight time. We aim to be the first in the world to complete a swift water rescue from a drone.



Image. 7 – Thales and CSIRO FireKing Fire Truck

Image. 8 – Disaster Drone

We will establish local disaster response buildings nationally, known to and available to our stakeholders and members as a place of safety before, during and after a disaster to wash their clothes, have a meal, shower, charge their phones and to train and hire equipment from and as emergency accommodation if required. We will also establish medical clinics within our centres with a MOU established with a medical company to provide emergency medical care and assistance under their drugs licence and in collaboration with their established partnership with local hospitals and medical establishments during a disaster.

A question that is asked is do we help non-members and the answer is of course yes. We are based off the volunteer marine rescue organisations though that charge a cost to non-members, which only encourages membership numbers. We also utilise the MOU with the charity mentioned above to cover costs of membership to those who cannot afford a membership.

Recommendations: A once off investment of \$10 million by the federal government and \$1 million by each state government for the Australian Disaster Alliance. This would allow 170,000 homeowners who currently don't have home safety supplies such as those mentioned above to be subsidised on a resilience inspection and packages we offer. If no one takes up the offer of the subsidy, the government pays nothing. We could however with such a subsidy, be able to turn the \$10 million from federal money into between \$20 million and \$42.5 million return and each \$1 million state investment into between \$2 and \$4.25 million return to scale and establish a national disaster army.

It is also recommended that businesses, all levels of government, charity/ community, and emergency services as well as insurance companies engage with the Australian Disaster Alliance to collaborate on the success of future crisis events, particularly as the message is so dire due to climate change, previous failings and an organisation that has the opportunity to meet the challenges at hand, for the benefit of every Australian.

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1st December, 2022

We Believe.... We Achieve
#Mackayhighpride



Announcing the *Emergency Management Academy*

Commencing in 2023, Mackay State High School is proud to announce the introduction of a new Academy option, the *Emergency Management Academy* (EMA). This new project is being offered through collaboration with David Ayles from **1300DISASTER**.

Our participating students (approximately 100), from Years 10 to 12, will learn the fundamentals of personal, home, community, national and international resilience.

Students will learn about preparedness, response and recovery for Emergency situations, with opportunities to participate in community resilience projects.

Other activities include, achieving nationally recognised qualifications in emergency management, drone operations and other exciting certificates, as well as interacting with additional emergency team professionals, such as emergency services and Search & Rescue Canine Handlers.

Students will be invited to participate in and attend national disaster and emergency management conferences, with scholarships and follow up support if they choose to enter fields of community service, humanitarian, climate, medicine or other related study fields. This training may even take them onto a career path such as 'Commissioner of Emergency Services'.

Once students have completed their initial training course, they will then have the opportunity to participate in either volunteer or paid emergency service projects, whilst they complete their school studies.

School staff and our Parent and Citizens Committee are excited about this opportunity for our students and we are very proud that David Ayles and the 1300DISASTER team have selected Mackay SHS to pilot this program.

Yours Sincerely,



Felicity Roberts
Principal, Mackay SHS

Respect | Responsibility | Resilience

i-REACT Consulting



David Ayles

1300 Disaster
Queensland

16.09.2023

To whom it may concern.

I have been a flood mitigation practitioner for the past 13 years, gaining most of my experience in the UK with some in Europe & the Middle East.

In all that time we have mostly been supplying solutions post event with over 5,000 properties protected in the UK over those years.

Despite the ever increasing threat of flooding people still bury their heads in the sand and assume it won't happen to them. Very few are prepared to protect their homes and most (across the globe) rely on the ubiquitous sandbag.

We developed strategies for the insurance sector, first responders and NGOs that addressed some of this inertia, including FPaaS¹ and Flood(Fire)Recovery® amongst other initiatives.

The *1300 Disaster* initiative is ideally suited to aid people and businesses who do not plan for natural hazard incidents and I fully support their goals and ambitions.

I believe this service will be instrumental in changing people's attitude to natural hazard preparation and will influence the insurance sector to recognise and reward efforts to do so.

I hope to see future iterations of *1300 Disaster* also complementing the first responders with easily and swiftly deployed flood defences ahead of the impending hazard to reduce the disaster impacts across businesses and communities.

They have my full support for a wonderful initiative.

Regards,

John Alexander

¹ FPaaS – Flood Protection as a Service

For reply please quote: – QRATF/23/4734

19 July 2023

David Ayles
Manager
Australian Disaster Alliance
david.ayles@1300disaster.com

Dear David

I would like to thank you for submitting the project, *Australian Disaster Alliance - Resilience Passport*, in the 2023 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards, and more particularly for the fantastic work you are doing to support Queenslanders to prepare for and recover from disasters.

This year, it has again been inspiring to see so many projects across Queensland helping to build disaster resilience into our communities.

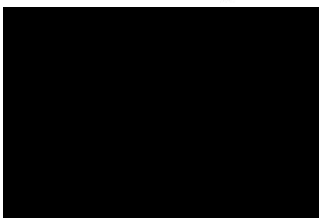
With so many quality entries across categories, it was very difficult to select our finalists and unfortunately your project was not shortlisted for the 2023 awards.

However, the judging panel are encouraging entrants to consider entering again in 2024, especially if you will have more evidence and data demonstrating your project's impact. If you would like more feedback, Get Ready Queensland is happy to pass-on comments from the judging session.

We would also like to stay up to date with your work and encourage you to keep in touch with Get Ready Queensland via Facebook or email, getready@qra.qld.gov.au. There are likely to be many opportunities to share stories and learnings in the future.

Congratulations to everyone involved in your project, *Australian Disaster Alliance - Resilience Passport*.

Yours sincerely



Jake Ellwood
Major General (Retd)
CEO
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

