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Australian Disaster  
Resilience Conference



Australian Government  
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience



INSURANCE

# Rethinking Investment

People and processes, not just products and things...

INVESTING IN RESILIENCE: MODELS AND APPROACHES

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Disaster Recovery and Resilience Lead



FRRR  
Foundation for Rural  
Regional Renewal

Aligned  
to the



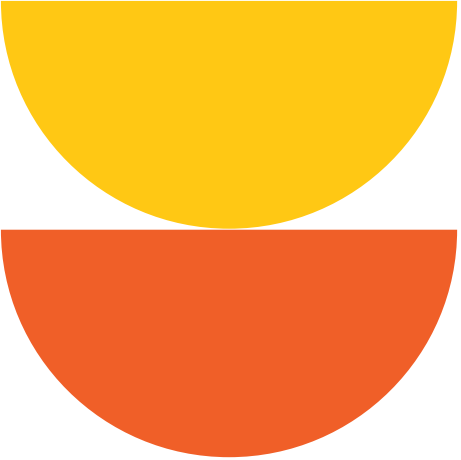
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CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

22–25 AUGUST 2023

Brisbane Convention and  
Exhibition Centre

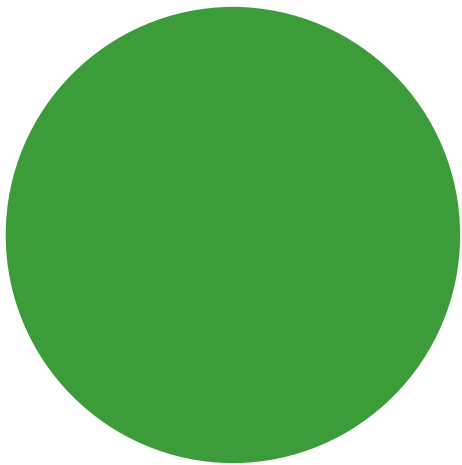




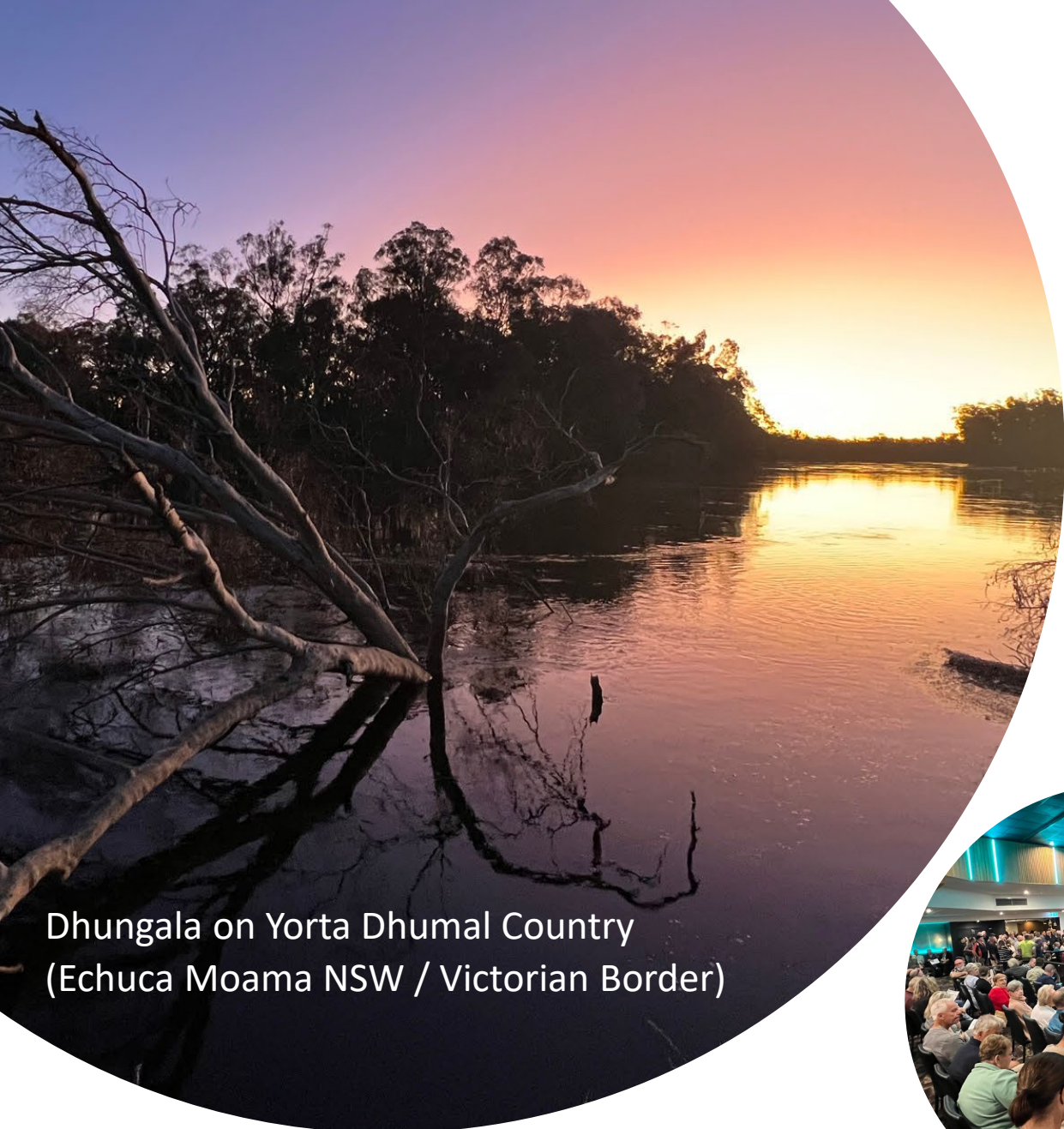
FRRR acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians. We recognise their cultures, histories and diversity and their deep connection to the lands, waters and seas of Queensland and the Torres Strait.

We acknowledge the Jagera people and the Turrbal people as the Traditional Custodians of Meanjin (Brisbane), the lands on where we meet today.

We pay our respects to Jagera and Turrbal Elders past and present.







Dhungala on Yorta Dhumal Country  
(Echuca Moama NSW / Victorian Border)



Oct 23



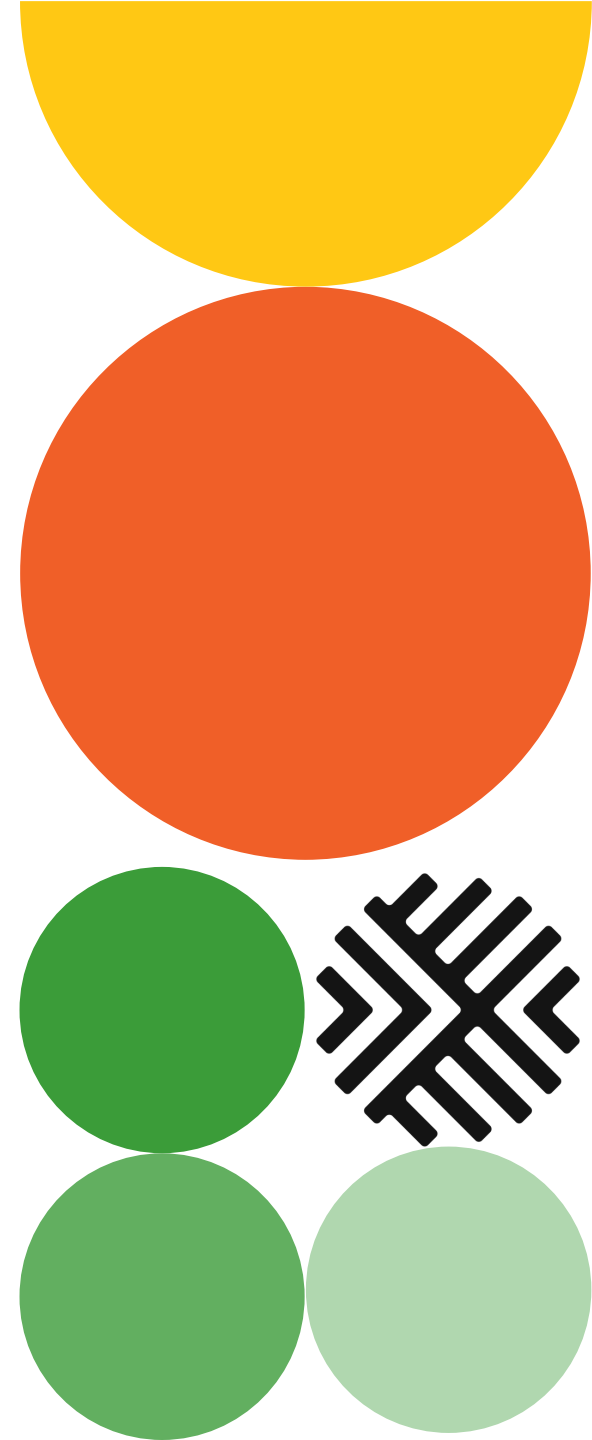


Our call to action here at AIDR:

It has never been more important to reduce disaster risk and build resilience. With science telling us that disasters will become more frequent and severe due to climate change, the urgency of this work is clear.

We must reimagine the future if we are to create the change we need.

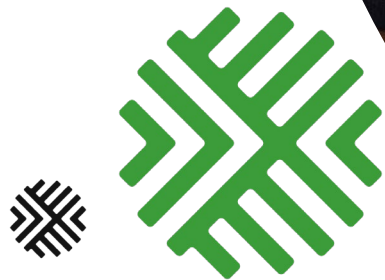
So, how do we invest more in people and processes, not just products and things, and what benefits would we see over time?





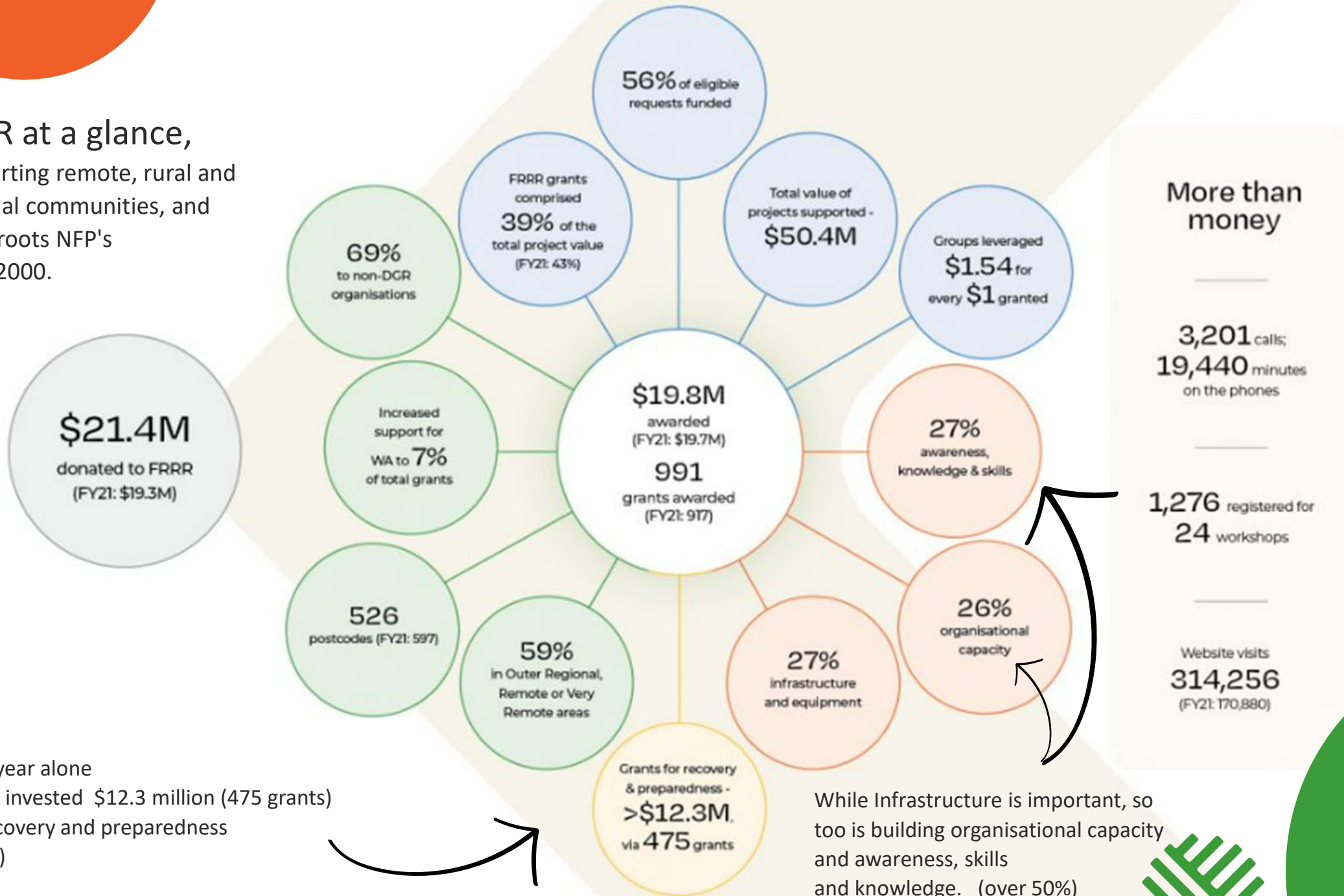
Across the entire disaster cycle, a balanced approach to investment in people and processes (social, cultural, political and human capital) is required.

While critically important; investment alone in products and things (built, financial and natural capital of communities) won't get us to where we need to be to be better prepared for the future.





FRRR at a glance,  
Supporting remote, rural and regional communities, and grass-roots NFP's since 2000.



Last year alone FRRR invested \$12.3 million (475 grants) in recovery and preparedness (62%)

While Infrastructure is important, so too is building organisational capacity and awareness, skills and knowledge. (over 50%)







## So, how do we really know what works?

Since year 2000, FRRR have supported communities throughout the disaster cycle through grants, fundraising, relationship brokering and support, resulting in deep anecdotal insights.

Since 2017, we have been working with communities in NSW, Vic and Qld, resilience specialists and learning partner; The University of Sydney to observe, listen and better understand why some communities respond more effectively to disasters, and others continue to experience challenges years, sometimes decades later.

Over time, the critical dimensions for community-led resilience building have emerged.

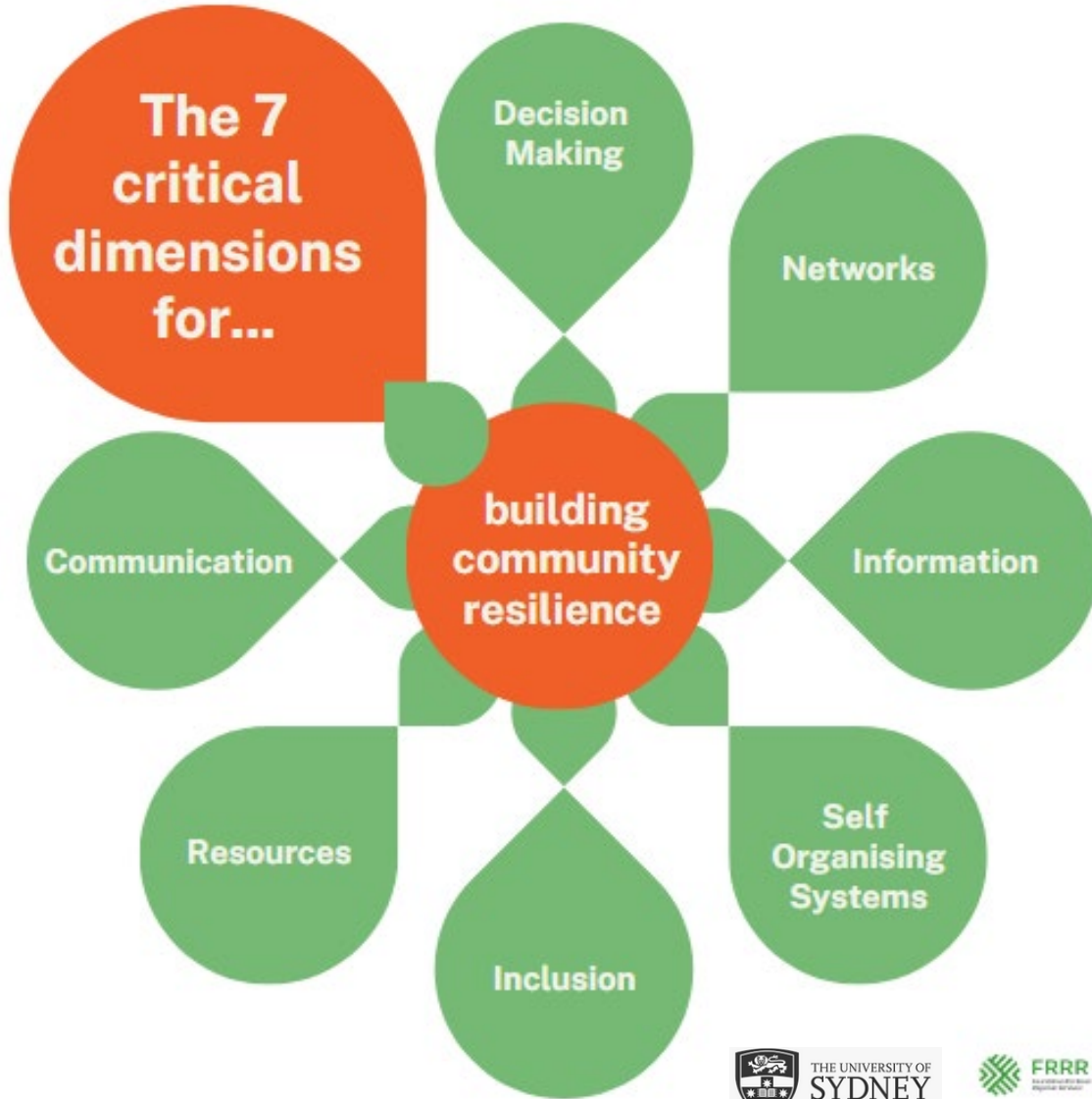




The research tells us...

When communities lead and drive resilience building efforts, these efforts are:

- sustained for longer,
- have ongoing positive impacts across the community, and,
- they build local strengths which can adapt to a range of challenges.





Through the design and delivery of diverse funding mechanisms that focus on people and processes, we see real resilience dividends through...

Locally devised projects and initiatives

(via small grants with flexible guidelines, longer timelines, and emphasis on preparedness)

Volunteer capacity building and networks

(via bespoke funder approaches to unique and remote localities, multi-year timelines, locally designed program content)



Centre for Disaster Philanthropy (SRC)

Sapphire Community Pantry (Bega-NSW) Strategic Planning



Ian Potter Foundation and other FRRR donors

Kangaroo Island Volunteer Capacity Building Project (Kingscote SA)





# Resilience Coaching, Support and Grants

Via in-community programs, Starting in NSW (2017), and most recently across Victoria, we work alongside communities to understand their assets, strengths, resilience dimensions, and discuss how these intersect with their current and future climate to design and deliver locally driven resilience initiatives.

- Myrtleford (focus on systems)
- Whittlesea (focus on networks)
- Korumburra (focus on communication and resources)



Disaster Resilient Future Ready - Victoria  
Lord Mayors Charitable Fund and many other  
FRRR Donors







Bushfire Recovery Fund  
HMS Trust /  
Sidney Myer Fund

Mount Beauty Support and internal system development

Strengthening internal NFP organisational capacity

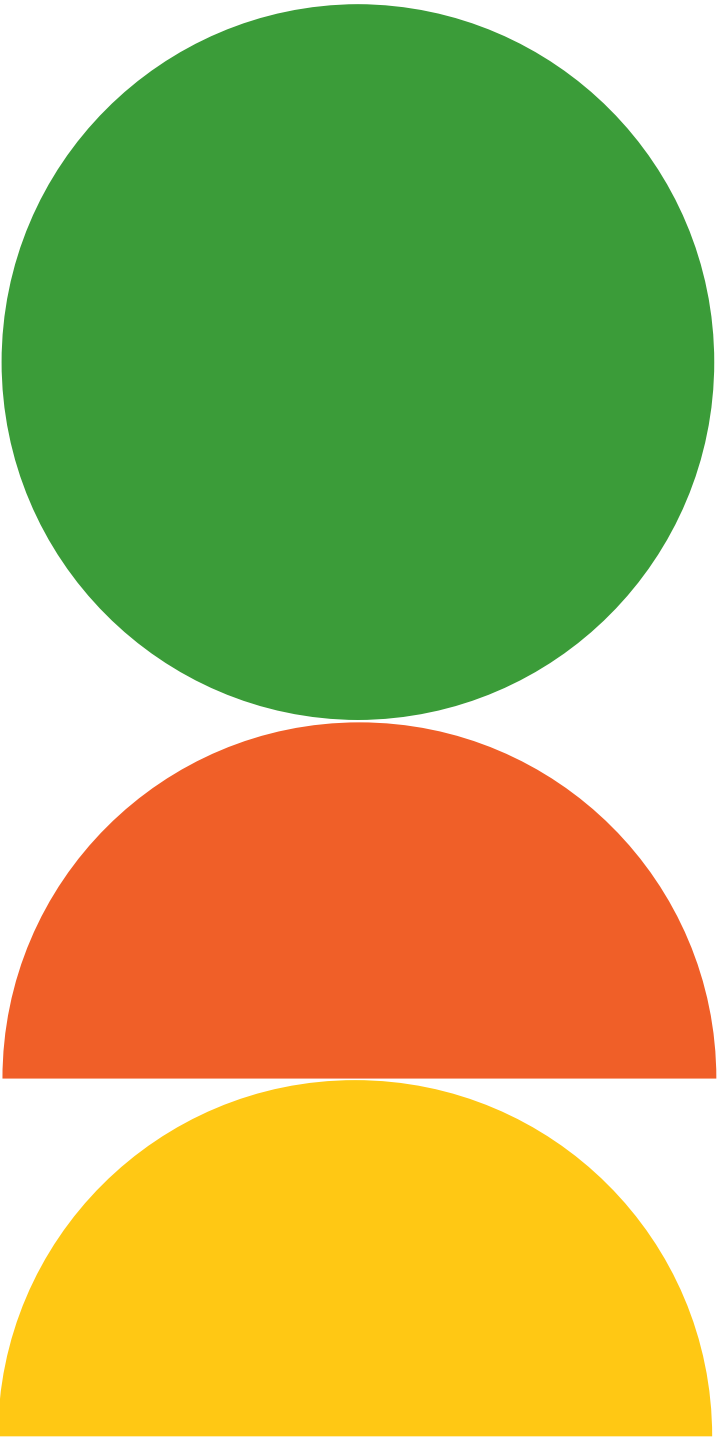
Building long term project delivery capability, through local partnerships



Disaster Resilient Future Ready Initiative (Minderoo Foundation and NEMA)

Red Earth Community Foundation (Burnett Inland-Queensland)

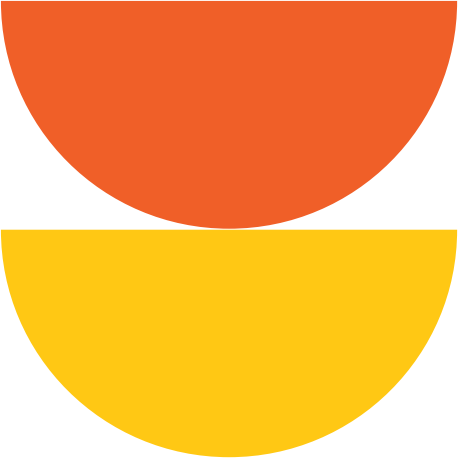





Without increased, deliberate, and balanced investment in social, cultural, political and human capital, alongside built, financial and natural capital, we will continue to see escalating impacts and harm to people, families and communities where we live.







So, what benefits would we see?

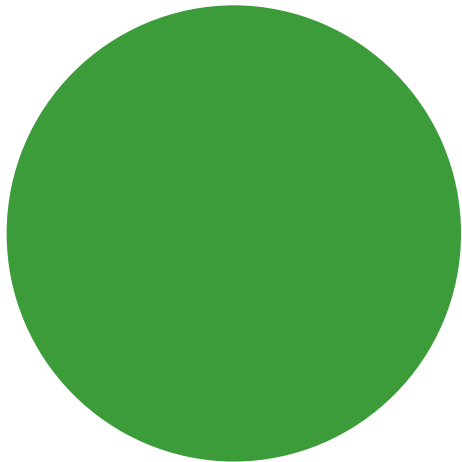
 An effective response

 A stronger recovery

 Deeper social connection

 Attitudinal Change

 Less personal harm





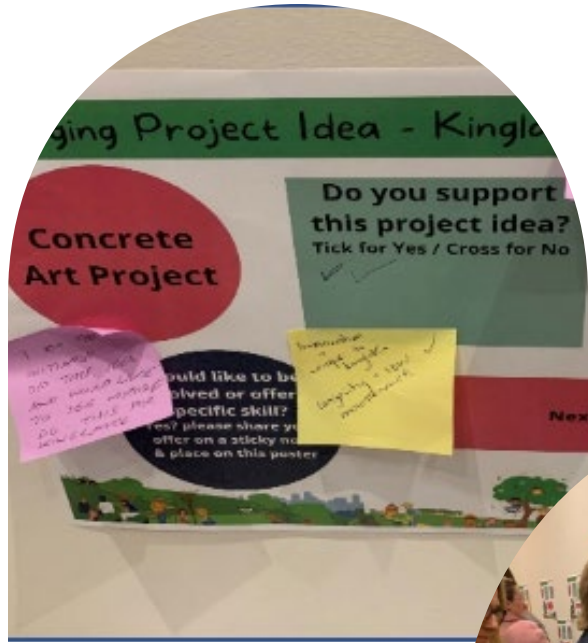
# 1) An effective response

Through harnessing the full capacity of the silent, and under recognised self-organising systems in communities and working from the ground up, we can effectively utilise the full capacity of resources within communities, leveraging critical assets (all types) to respond effectively as disasters become more frequent.



EXAMPLE:  
People and  
Processes  
Moama NSW





## 2) A stronger recovery

Through early investment in local people and organisations, we build skills and capability in both local people and organisations, in short term response and long-term recovery, and to reduce reliance on external support required to respond in a disaster.

By building local agency in decision making, shifting the power base, sharing knowledge, and playing to our strengths we can work more sustainably in the long term.

EXAMPLE:  
People and  
Processes  
Kinglake  
Victoria





### 3) Deeper Social Connection

Through recognising the value of, and strengthening local networks, we build broader inclusion of people with quieter voices, reduce the risk for those with differing abilities to respond independently, and strengthen the sense of belonging and collective responsibility.

EXAMPLE:  
People and  
Processes  
Tumbarumba  
NSW



EXAMPLE:  
People and  
Processes  
Albany WA



## 4) Less personal harm

Through increasing the and awareness of disasters within local communities, such as how, why, and where they occur, and strengthening the information, skills and knowledge about how to respond, we empower local people, and those around them (who often know best about what works) to be increasingly self-sufficient and take action sooner.





## 5) Attitudinal change

Through increased understanding and experience, people gradually reduce their reliance on, and shift their expectations of formalised systems and supports over time; and take greater self and local collective responsibility.



EXAMPLE:  
People and Processes  
NT Young Livestock  
Exporters Leadership





So, what long term benefits would we see if we took a systems-based lens to investing in people and processes, and not just products and things, to better meet community needs and challenges of the future?

- Capable and informed local people
- Agile and connected community networks
- Strong Not-for-Profit organisations
- Resilient Communities







Talk to us:



**FRRR**  
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