

Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland

Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



Australian Government

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Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil

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Part 1: Summary

Section A: DR:FR Program Outline and Intent

Disaster Resilient: Future Ready (DR:FR) is a national program that helps remote, rural, and regional communities to be better prepared for future disasters.

FRRR and local lead partner Red Earth Community Foundation are working in collaboration with Minderoo Foundation, leveraging their networks, expertise and adaptable approach towards community resilience planning to support local partner communities in the Burnett Inland region to strengthen their resilience. This work is also supported by the Australian Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, under the Preparing Australian Communities Program – Local Stream.

The aim of the program is to develop and lead regional and localised community initiatives that strengthen awareness, increase preparedness, and enhance capacity of the local community to thrive and be resilient to the impacts of climate, disasters, and other disruptions. This includes building local knowledge of climate risks, catalysing leadership, fostering collaboration and facilitating community-driven innovation processes to develop and activate strategic actions and strategies that:

- Strengthen community capacity to positively adapt and evolve to change and disruption;
- Increase disaster preparedness to better mitigate, avoid, withstand and/or recover more effectively from the increasing effects of hazards such as bushfires and floods;
- Improve community wellbeing and enhance resilience, so communities can grow and flourish.

The pace of the program is based on the individual needs of each community and activities may include capacity building workshops, facilitated community conversations, community building and engagement events, co-design workshops, relationship and network building and activation of priority initiatives.

The partner communities identified by Red Earth in the early phase of the program include Cherbourg, Dallarnil, Kalpowar, Kumbia, Proston and Tansey. These communities will have access to flexible funding for activities that enhance their capacity to thrive and be resilient to the impacts of climate, disasters and other disruptions.

A stream of activities will also be convened to support collaboration across regional agencies and organisations through the development of regional level resilience building initiatives for collective impact.

Section B: Purpose of Document

The **Roadmap to Resilience: Dallarnil** document has multiple purposes. Firstly, it serves to document the journey and outcomes of the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready** program in Dallarnil, including community engagement processes, community mapping and the identification and development of locally driven initiatives aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience now and to support development of future initiatives.

It also acts as a vital resource for the Internal Advisory Group (IAG) whose remit is to provide local advice and insights to the overall DR:FR QLD project to ensure it is delivered in alignment with local needs and priorities, within the construct of program donor parameters. By consolidating information, insights, actions and outcomes, the document aims to foster alignment with the broader disaster management ecosystem and captures the unique strengths and needs of the Dallarnil community.

Furthermore, the roadmap is also a critical element in FRRR's granting due diligence and provides the FRRR Board, which ultimately approve DR:FR grant applications, with information about the development of initiatives and how they align to program principles, evidence of need and considerations of the broader context.

Section C: Resilience Statement

Based on community feedback, Dallarnil's Resilience Statement is:

Dallarnil is a resilient community that is prepared and equipped to manage the unexpected. It is a community that is inclusive and connected, where people know each other and have access to local leaders and information before, during and after an event. Dallarnil has a strong volunteer base and regular opportunities to get together, to welcome newcomers, and to share information.

Section D: Summary of Community Engagement

An agile and responsive community engagement approach was adopted. In Dallarnil, an initial scoping conversation was held with representatives of the Dallarnil Sports Association in October 2023, followed by community sessions in November and December 2023, as well as January, February, March, April, June, and November in 2024. During the community sessions, Dallarnil worked through the program framework (see Appendix B), including the Prepare, People, Place and Possibilities topics under Phase 2 – 'Organise for Impact'. Throughout this process, the community co-created a shared vision for resilience and identified, as well as prioritised, community-led initiatives. A detailed overview of community engagement is in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

"Even if people aren't friends, they're still neighbours."

Dallarnil Community Member, DR:FR Community Session, February 2024

Section E: Community Profile Summary

Desktop Analysis

At the start of the program, desktop analysis was conducted in relation to Dallarnil. The following summary of information was documented. *Please note that further community context is provided below this summary.*

Township: Dallarnil is a small community that is located about 15 km north of Biggenden within the North Burnett Regional Council LGA.

First Nations: Wakka Wakka people

SEIFA: 885 with a quintile of 1 (most disadvantaged), percentile of 3

Population: 245 (2021)

Remoteness: Outer Regional RA3

Dallarnil is a rural town and locality in the North Burnett Region, Queensland. Dallarnil is 15 km north of Biggenden, 95 km west of Maryborough, 85 km south of Bundaberg and 299 km north-west of Brisbane. Community assets include the Dallarnil Hall and sportsground, as well as a privately owned general store. Dallarnil is serviced primarily by Biggenden.

Dallarnil has an active Rural Fire Service and is serviced by the Biggenden SES.

Dallarnil / Biggenden has been impacted by climatic events including:

- 1895 – 1902: Federation Drought
- May 1914 – March 1915: Drought declared
- January 1965 – June 1966: Drought declared
- April 1982 – February 1983: Drought declared
- 1997 – 2009: Millennium Drought
- February 2003: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Beni
- December 2010 – January 2011: Extreme weather event
- January / February 2013: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald
- February 2015: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Marcia
- March 2017: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie
- April 2017 – September 2019: Drought declared
- 2021 – January 2022: Drought declared
- January and February 2022: Extreme weather events which resulted in the community being impacted by flooding, with numerous homes inundated.

Dallarnil falls under the **North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan**, which can be found on Council's website under Disaster Management: <https://northburnett.qld.gov.au/disaster-management/>.

The Disaster Support Plan – Biggenden encompasses the smaller townships of Coalstoun Lakes, Dallarnil, Degilbo, Didcot and surrounding farming catchments. The Support Plan contains a list of possible evacuation points in the Biggenden area, but has no delegated listing for Dallarnil.

Full Community Mapping, as undertaken through the DR:FR program is outlined in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

Section F: Resilience Dimensions

Drawing on research with communities experiencing disasters and other shocks in Australia over time, as well as a growing body of published research, University of Sydney researchers have documented and developed a set of key areas, or dimensions, which are helpful in guiding and supporting community led work in disaster preparedness and resilience building.

In collaboration with FRRR, these dimensions were seen in action in communities impacted by disasters. This framework is commonly referred to as the [Critical Dimensions for Community Resilience](#).

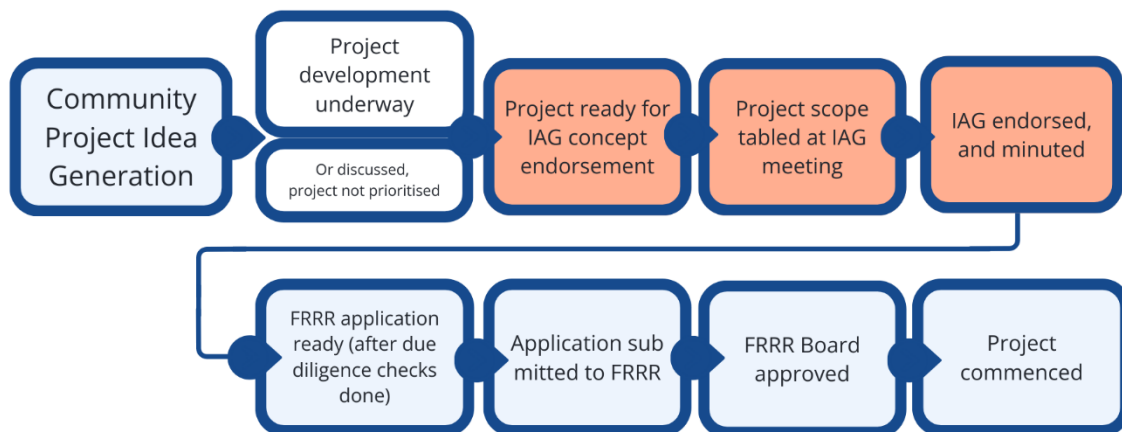
The seven Resilience Dimensions and how program activities have identified them in relation to Dallarnil are outlined in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

Section G: Community Initiative

Reflective of the program intent to ‘help remote, rural and regional communities to be better prepared for future disasters’ and to ‘support local people and organisations to develop and fund projects and initiatives that will improve disaster preparedness and community resilience’, each DR:FR community has had an opportunity to design projects meeting the Guidelines for ‘Local Community Initiatives’ that have been developed and agreed through the DR:FR Workshops.

The project ideas range in scale, scope, activity and funding readiness and will move through a multi-stage process to seek funds.

The overall process and the role of the IAG is summarised below:



As per the IAG Terms of Reference, the views and feedback from the IAG will be sought for all projects for a high level 'concept endorsement' via regular meetings of the IAG. If endorsed, all project concepts will be minuted. This endorsement acts as evidence of local community support to the FRRR Board. The IAG may choose to decline to endorse the concepts if the majority of members determine that: further development is required; it is not deemed a priority; or it is duplicative of existing local efforts.

Pending endorsement of the project by the IAG, FRRR will undertake full due diligence checks of the project and applicant and provide the IAG with updates where required. Projects may be deferred or declined at any stage of the due diligence process if FRRR is not satisfied the project or applicant meets the program guidelines or charitability checks. If the project scope, applicant, budget, or stated outcome significantly changes after endorsement, the project will return to the IAG for re-endorsement prior to it being funded.

The IAG does not 'approve' projects; this is undertaken by the FRRR Board.

Once FRRR is satisfied the projects are 'grant ready', applicants apply via the FRRR Grants Gateway.

The applications are reviewed by FRRR staff, including the Portfolio Lead and CEO, and then put forward for approval to the FRRR Board.

Pending approval, the applicant is notified, funds are paid and the project commences.

Dallarnil Community Initiative Status:

As of late November 2024, Dallarnil has a three-fold project tabled: Resourcing the Dallarnil Hall as a Community Meeting Place through Events for Community Cohesion and Information Systems. Details are below. The overall concept is ready for endorsement by the IAG, noting that further refinement will take place prior to the initiative being submitted to FRRR once it is 'application ready'. Refinements will not impact the concept or intent of the initiative, and if there is any shift in the scope of the initiative, it will be re-presented to the IAG. Next steps in the project development are noted in Appendix A.

Initiatives Ready for IAG Concept Endorsement

Project Title: Dallarnil Hall Resources, Events and Information Systems

Resourcing the Dallarnil Hall as a Community Meeting Place through Events for Community Cohesion and Information Systems.

Lead Organisation: Dallarnil Sports Club

Project Description: This project is three-fold and includes:

- a) Development and activation of a schedule of local events that aims to bridge community divide, increase cohesion and disaster preparedness for local community;
- b) Implementation of a community notice board and calendar to promote community events, local stories of resilience and relevant disaster preparedness information; and
- c) Resourcing Dallarnil Hall with generators to support its role in the disaster management ecosystem.

Indicative Cost: \$100,000

Expenditure Items:

- Equipment for social activities
- Catering and event costs to host four community events
- Guest speaker fees
- Resilience Calendar - photographer, content development, graphic design and printing
- Governance/event management and marketing support and systems
- Community Noticeboard / Information Sign
- Generators

Stakeholders: North Burnett Regional Council, DR:FR Working Group (incorporating community members who have been involved in the DR:FR process and who represent a cross-section of community, including new residents, long-term residents, community volunteers, emergency service representatives, and those connected to the school / young families).

What has identified the need for this initiative? Strengthening cohesion is particularly significant in this community due to tensions that resulted after recent disaster events, and demographic differences that are present in the community. Cohesion has also been supported by North Burnett Council's Disaster Management Officer as critical in helping preparedness efforts. Flooding risks are also complex in Dallarnil, with the recent North Burnett Flood Study investigating this further with a particular focus on updating warning systems. It is also anticipated the findings from the recent Big Map events delivered by Disaster Relief Australia will add further evidence to the importance of improved cohesion and information systems.

With regard to the Resilience Dimensions, this Initiative aligns with the **Networks, Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support**, and **Information** dimensions. Full explanation of how this initiative meets each of these Resilience Dimensions in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

What will the outcome be? i.e. How will this increase disaster preparedness in this community?

A connected community is better able to prepare for, and respond to, disruptions and disasters. Regular events will help build community connection and provide an opportunity for information sharing about preparedness strategies.

How does this initiative fit within the ecosystem of disaster preparedness, response and recovery within the local context? Warning systems is a priority for this community and conversations have commenced with North Burnett Regional Council to leverage learnings from its recent Flood Study and to strengthen connections between community and formalised disaster management systems into the future.

How will this initiative be maintained in the future?

Capacity building support will be explored and identified through project refinement to ensure governance, event management and communications systems form part of the initiative to bolster future activity.

Conflict of Interests:

No noted conflicts of interest to declare in relation to Dallarnil’s initiatives.

Quick DR:FR Program Guideline Alignment Check	
Dallarnil Hall: Resourcing the Dallarnil Hall as a Community Meeting Place	
1. Build the skills, knowledge and capacity of local people or organisations to be better prepared for future disasters through new or strengthened:	
a) Skills, capacity, and knowledge;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Networks and self-organising systems;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Information sharing and communication;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Inclusion and decision making;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Tools, resources, or minor infrastructure; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Initiatives that add value to local emergency planning.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Involve other key stakeholders, build partnerships, and strengthen collaboration that will benefit local people in future disasters; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Respond to one or more of the seven critical dimensions for building community resilience, shown below .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Meets FRRR charitability and other granting due diligence*	<input type="checkbox"/>

*While the project is ready for IAG endorsement, final charitability checks are yet to be 100% completed before the application is lodged with FRRR. See project development and approval pathway diagram for reference.

Part 2: Further Detail

Section H: Detailed Community Engagement Overview

In addition to the summary of community engagement provided in Part 1, please find below a more detailed overview.

All community sessions have been held at the Dallarnil Hall, with a prominent level of engagement and involvement from a cross-section of community members.

In October 2023, Red Earth held an initial discussion with representatives of the Dallarnil Sports Association, receiving fanatical support for the program to activate in Dallarnil. The program framework and desktop analysis were also discussed during this meeting. In November 2023, eight community members attended the first broad community engagement session, where some community mapping took place, as well as activities to capture insights about the fabric of the community and what resilience looks like in the local context.

In December 2023, approximately 23 community members attended the engagement session, which focused on the People and Place elements of the program Framework. In January 2024, seven local residents attended, with the focus of the session being climatic impacts and introducing the Resilience Framework, with Possibilities and community-generated solution ideas identified under each of the Resilience Dimensions.

In February 2024, the 15 community members who attended took part in an interactive assessment activity where solution ideas were sorted by community into a High / Low Impact v High / Low-Cost quadrant. Nic Vogelpoel and Cameron Willis from evaluation partner Day Four Projects were also present and followed the interactive session with some questions to community about their hopes for the program and experiences so far. In March 2024, 14 locals, including four children, participated in a first-hand dotmocracy activity, which prioritised potential initiatives and identified issues for community advocacy. In April, 11 community members engaged in discussion to further explore and refine the initiatives that had been identified to that point. FRRR representatives Nina and Jo were also in attendance and spoke to the funding process. During the June community session, further refinement of the identified Possibilities took place.

In August, it had been identified prior to the session that there were a number of community members who would be coming along who had no prior engagement with the program. In order to be responsive, informative and inclusive, the June session recapped the 'journey so far', discussed the solution ideas that were currently being explored as part of the program and spoke to the next steps and granting process.

In November, an update was provided to the 11 community members in attendance about what had been going on 'behind the scenes' since the last in-community session, including FRRR looking into the eligibility and charitability of initiatives, as well as Red Earth and FRRR collaborating with the IAG and North Burnett Regional Council to explore whether the proposed initiatives were aligned to program intent and the local

disaster management ecosystem. This community session organically culminated in further refinement and clarity of the initiatives the community would like to move forward with.

Section I: Full Community Profile

Desktop Analysis

At the start of the program, desktop analysis was conducted in relation to Dallarnil. The following is a detailed community profile, compiled from the information available. *Please note that further community context is provided in Part 1.*

Township: Dallarnil is a small community that is located about 15 km north of Biggenden within the North Burnett Regional Council LGA.

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Remoteness: Outer Regional RA3

Dallarnil is a rural town and locality in the North Burnett Region, Queensland. Dallarnil is 15 km north of Biggenden, 95 km west of Maryborough, 85 km south of Bundaberg and 299 km north-west of Brisbane. Dallarnil sits within the State electorate of Callide and the Federal division of Flynn.

The town takes its name from the railway station on the Isis railway line, assigned by the Queensland Railways Department on 2 September 1911. The railway station name was derived from the name of a pastoral run and is a corruption of an Aboriginal word, "conalaman" meaning big hill.

In October 1912, 20 allotments of the Dallarnil township were advertised to be auctioned by Charles White of Biggenden. A map advertising the auction states the allotments were opposite the railway station, with the railway line nearing completion.

Dallarnil State School is a government Prep-6. There is no secondary school in Dallarnil, with the nearest being in Biggenden (to Year 10) and Childers (to Year 12).

Community assets include the Dallarnil Hall and Sports Ground, as well as a privately owned general store. Dallarnil is serviced primarily by Biggenden. Biggenden was founded in 1889 as a service centre to the short-lived goldrush towns of Paradise and Shamrock and for coach passengers travelling west from Maryborough. Biggenden is the home to Paradise Dam and two unique National Parks, Mt Walsh and Coalstoun Lakes.

Dallarnil has an active Rural Fire Service and is serviced by the Biggenden SES.

Dallarnil / Biggenden has been impacted by climatic events including:

- 1895 – 1902: Federation Drought
- May 1914 – March 1915: Drought declared.
- January 1965 – June 1966: Drought declared.
- April 1982 – February 1983: Drought declared.
- 1997 – 2009: Millennium Drought
- February 2003: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Beni
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Disaster Resilience (Australian Disaster Resilience Index Map)

The Dallarnil / Biggenden area is assessed on the Australian Disaster Resilience Index map as the Gayndah-Mundubbera area.

Disaster Resilience value of 0.2778

The Gayndah-Mundubbera area is assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience. Communities in areas of low disaster resilience may be limited in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and are limited in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Limitations to disaster resilience may be contributed to by entrenched social and economic disadvantage, less access to or provision of resources and services, lower community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

Coping Capacity value of 0.3360

Communities in areas of low Coping Capacity may be constrained in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events and to prepare for, absorb and recover from a natural hazard.

Adaptive Capacity value of 0.2367

Communities in areas of low Adaptive Capacity may be constrained in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation.

Community Mapping

As part of the DR:FR program, community mapping took place at a local level. The following data, gathered from community feedback during DR:FR community sessions, outlines the services and gaps that currently exist in the community, provides insight into demographics and culture of Dallarnil and identifies some community concerns.

Services, Shops, Business, Organisations and Gaps

Education and Health

- P-6 Dallarnil State Primary School with 30 students
- BlueCare
- Meals on Wheels (collection required from Biggenden)
- NDIS Support Workers service Dallarnil

Businesses

- Dallarnil General Store

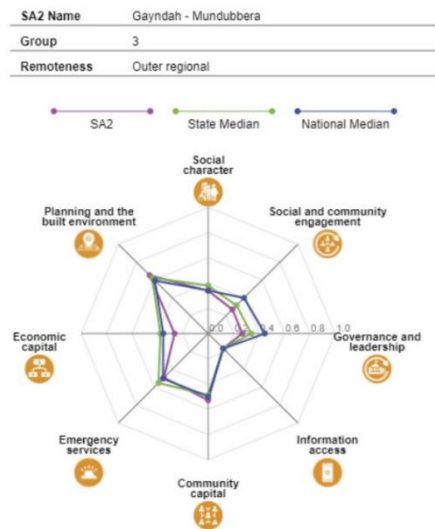


Image 1: Australian Disaster Resilience Index (<https://adri.bnhcrc.com.au/>)

Organisations

- Dallarnil Sports Association
- Masonic Lodge
- Pony Club (Biggenden)
- Swimming Club (Biggenden)
- Sports Associations in Biggenden

Emergency Services

- Rural Fire Brigade (one of the biggest rural brigades in the area with 11 members, plus a Facebook page with over 600 followers)
- Ambulance (Biggenden)
- Police (Biggenden)
- SES, with SES Cadet Unit (Biggenden)

Gaps

- There used to be an active Indoor Bowls Club, and there is desire for this to be re-activated as a regular community cohesion event.
- No youth group, with youth attending various sporting clubs in Biggenden.

Infrastructure

- Rural Fire Brigade building
- Sportsground and Dallarnil Community Hall
- Cemetery

Events

- Bingo
- CWA craft mornings in Biggenden each Wednesday
- Annual Barrel Racing and Campdraft event
- Annual Classic Cars event

Natural Environment

- Tawah and Merarie Creeks (which cause flooding when they converge)

Community Insights

There are a number of new residents relocating from the city, and an increased number of people living in caravans on private land.

Vulnerable people in this community are identified as those who are aged and new residents who have relocated to the area and may be unaware of the significance of potential disaster impacts.

There is a lot of volunteer fatigue.

General age demographic is over 50.

People are enthusiastic about the area and there is some sense of community, however there is disconnect within different sectors and demographics of the community; noting however that everyone does pull together in times of disaster or need.

There is desire for a community meeting place, with hopes the Dallarnil Hall upgrades that are in progress will help it to become a community hub.

Community Concerns

There are no events to connect the community, other than disasters.

People get isolated at the end of long driveways, with emergency services not knowing there is a residence in that area, or not knowing how to contact them.

Phone and internet have extremely limited service.

There are some clean up works that need to happen to mitigate fire and flood risks.

There is concern that new residents may not be open to listening to local knowledge in relation to disaster impacts, or that long-term residents with this knowledge may not have the opportunity to share this information.

Part 3: Program Outcomes and the Disaster Management Ecosystem

Section J: DR:FR Burnett Inland Program Outcomes So Far

The DR:FR Program is supported by agreed guidelines that reflect both the program framework and outcomes sought by program donors.

The program aims to:

- 1) Build the **skills, knowledge and capacity** of local people or organisations to be better prepared for future disasters through new or strengthened approaches that include:
 - a) Skills, capacity, and knowledge;
 - b) Networks and self-organising systems;
 - c) Information sharing and communication;
 - d) Inclusion and decision making;
 - e) Tools, resources, or minor infrastructure; and
 - f) Initiatives that add value to local emergency planning.
- 2) Involve other **key stakeholders, build partnerships, and strengthen collaboration** that will benefit local people in future disasters; and
- 3) Respond to one or more of the seven **critical dimensions** for building community resilience.

As of December 2024, progress includes:

1) Skills, Knowledge, and Capacity

AIDR - Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2024

DR:FR program staff and community volunteers from the Burnett Inland attended AIDR 2024 Disaster Resilience Conference. This offered exposure to disaster mitigation and resilience examples, from government strategies and programs to grassroots approaches. Red Earth and FRRR delivered communications through various channels supporting wider education including a post-conference webinar (<https://www.redearth.org.au/drfr>) with community members profiling insights gained that will inform community initiative development and broader risk reduction.



Key takeaways from participants included:

- Progress "moves at the speed of trust." Without trust – whether it is with farmers, community members, or among colleagues – there is no solid foundation to build on.
- The importance of building homes suited to our environment will mitigate disaster risks.
- Better preparedness – assets, planning, or mental resilience – can help shorten the long recovery journey.

Two local Dallarnil community leaders, Dom and Bindi attended the 2024 AIDR conference as part of the DR:FR Burnett Inland delegation. Dom is the Second Officer and Bindi is the Fourth Officer at the North Dallarnil Rural Fire Brigade. Dom and Bindi are both enthusiastic about disaster preparedness and response because, on top of their lived experience with a fire at their property in 2004, they also experienced and responded to the flash flooding events in Dallarnil in 2022. Dom's key takeaway from the AIDR conference was the realisation that recovery can take years for many people and that being better prepared (with assets, planning and mental resilience) may help with quicker recovery. Bindi's key takeaway was that education is key.

The Red Earth Leadership Forum – Resilience as an Ecosystem

The Red Earth Leadership Forum connected people from across the Burnett Inland region around the theme of 'Resilience as an Ecosystem', fostering conversation around personal resilience and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Proceedings included keynote by Paul Ryan, Australian Resilience Centre and speaker Melanie Bloor, president Resilient Uki.

A panel discussion reiterated the ecosystem approach with local, regional and national perspectives on resilience building. Over 65 attendees thought big in breakout sessions and captured local opportunities and potential next steps in activating local initiatives.

A report on the Regional Leadership Forum entitled 'Resilience as an Ecosystem' was published.

Below are survey responses from Forum participants evidencing resilience built through their engagement:

- 82% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that they increased their knowledge about disaster recovery and resilience;
- 95% learnt new information;
- 95% are more likely to increase involvement in their local community;
- 90% met new people and developed new networks;
- 96% were inspired to act on new ideas.

2) Stakeholders, Partnerships and Collaboration

Disaster Resilience Australia - Big Map Events



Using a big floor map spread across the local halls in the Burnett Inland, Disaster Relief Australia facilitated conversations to help key disaster management stakeholders and community members see the bigger picture when preparing for disaster.

The map literally offered a bird's eye view of the whole catchment. People located where they live on the map and built a better understanding of disaster risks that might impact them. The critical part of this process was about getting community members actually walking on the map to share, build knowledge and contribute their voice to disaster planning.

At these sessions multiple hazards were identified through the process, which offered the opportunity for the Burnett Inland community to share their knowledge and identify gaps, so that they can be ready for future disaster events and engage in a catchment approach because as was shared through the sessions “in a major flood, the catchment will force communities to work together”.

A number of residents from the Dallarnil and surrounding small localities attended the Big Map event in Biggenden in October 2024. Each of them found the session valuable and engaged in two-way communication with Red Earth, North Burnett Regional Council, Disaster Relief Australia and other agencies in the room, both giving and receiving disaster-related information from a local context.

3) Resilience Dimensions

Drawing on research with communities experiencing disasters and other shocks in Australia over time as well as a growing body of published research, University of Sydney researchers have documented and developed a set of key areas, or dimensions, which are helpful in guiding and supporting community-led work in disaster preparedness and resilience building.



Networks

Ideally communities are working on an ongoing process of expanding and connecting networks both locally and with others outside the community. It is worth mapping the networks that community members participate in and the ones known about when starting work together and then checking in on how these have changed over the life of activities. Networks underpin local reciprocal relationships, or social capital which is always drawn upon in times of crisis. These are gold for any community-led activity.

Local Context: *Dallarnil has some very strong volunteer organisations, including the Dallarnil Sports Association and the North Dallarnil Fire Brigade. There are also re-emerging informal networks amongst community members. While everyone pulls together in times of crisis, it is noted that sectors of community and local organisations tend to operate as silos.*

Information

There is a mountain of information available on disaster risk but like communication, locally generated information is important. Drawing on local knowledge to design information and working with information as a discussion rather than a one-way process effectively builds support for community led work more generally. This enables community members to tailor information to their local context.

Local Context: *There is a wealth of local knowledge in Dallarnil, with the DR:FR program both scaffolding conversations for knowledge sharing and actively exploring ways for this local exchange to happen on a regular basis.*

Self-Organising Systems

People organise themselves in communities all the time outside of (and sometimes in spite of) formal institutions. Looking for where people have informal networks, relationships and ways of organising things and tapping into these is useful. Research has found informal self-organised activities are often invisible but do a lot of heavy lifting both in supporting everyday resilience and in crisis.

Local Context: *While organisation within the community is generally formalised at the moment (established volunteer groups), the community self-organises extremely well during and after a disaster impact, evidenced during the 2022 weather events. The emergence of the Dallarnil DR:FR working group, with members from a cross-section of community, is another example of a self-organising system, which sits outside of a formalised structure.*

Inclusion

It is important to be mindful of who is not around the table when a community starts to work together and to actively seek out people who are missing. This means thinking creatively about how different people might be involved and listening closely to groups who will often be impacted most by any crisis but who may feel excluded from local decisions.

Local Context: *Dallarnil is aware that there are vulnerable people within their community, i.e. older residents or newer residents who have recently relocated from places with no similar context of disaster impacts, and actively seeks to involve them, or advocate for their needs.*

Communication

Multi-way communication between equal collaborators is an ongoing feature of successful community-led resilience building. This means keeping all those directly involved in the project in discussion with each other and having a continuing conversation with people in the wider community.

Local Context: Communication within Dallarnil is an area of concern, with limited phone and internet coverage limiting the ways in which people can stay connected. Letterbox drops are the preferred way to promote upcoming DR:FR community sessions and informal phone trees form the foundation of information sharing.

Resources, Tools, and Support

Trust, community contributions (skills, knowledge, effort and time) and external support (financial, expertise and practical tools) in combination, are a critical foundation for building (and sustaining) successful and inclusive community-led efforts that enhance resilience.

Local Context: Dallarnil has a proven ability to draw on local skills, knowledge, effort and time to activate community-led efforts, such as the very successful annual campdraft and barrel racing event. The Dallarnil Sports Association has also been successful in resourcing external financial support through significant funding for upgrades to the Dallarnil Hall. DR:FR resourcing will not duplicate the existing resources on hand.

Decision Making

Local inclusive decision making is the foundation of community-led resilience building and can be challenging. It means services and government must step back and listen to the voices of community members and that decisions and action reflects community priorities. It is also worth developing some decision-making processes for community and activity groups which include the ideas and views of the wider community.

Local Context: Dallarnil has a desire to work more closely with North Burnett Regional Council in order for their collective community voice to be heard and for that voice to influence decision making in relation to warning systems and mitigation strategies. The DR:FR program is supporting the brokerage of these connections.

How the Eligible Initiative Meets the Resilience Dimensions

(Full details of this Eligible Initiative are outlined in Part 1 of the Roadmap to Resilience.)

The Eligible Initiative aligns with the **Networks, Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support, and Information** Resilience Dimensions.

The initiative strengthens local **Networks** by activating the Dallarnil Hall as a community hub and central meeting place for regular events, thereby fostering collaboration amongst community members and organisations. It provides an avenue for residents to connect, share knowledge and experiences, build relationships, enhance social cohesion and increase disaster preparedness.

The establishment of the Dallarnil DR:FR Working Group is aligned to the **Self-Organising Systems** Resilience Dimension, noting that a cross-section of community members has come together to collaborate and drive local resilience efforts. The Hall itself also supports self-organisation by serving as a flexible space where community can gather, plan and hold events.

By developing and installing a community noticeboard and hosting events that include disaster preparedness discussions, the Initiative ensures vital **Information** is shared locally. This helps address the gaps in communications (poor phone and internet connectivity) by facilitating alternate ways to exchange knowledge and information.

Resourcing the Hall with generators and equipment for events meets the **Resources and Tools and Support** Resilience Dimensions by transforming the Hall into a reliable community asset, equipping the town with a facility that serves as both a social hub and a resource center for disaster preparedness and recovery.

Section K: The Disaster Management Ecosystem

The Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) defines disaster as “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts. Note, there are jurisdictional legislative variations”.

The DR:FR program recognises, respects and aims to build awareness of the importance of formal disaster management systems and is committed to working within, and adding value to, the local disaster management ecosystem.

Part of the program’s intent is to increase local awareness of current ‘formal’ disaster preparedness efforts, as well as response and recovery roles and responsibilities, particularly by local government. The DR:FR program aims to support, resource and strengthen the ‘informal’ community resilience building and preparedness efforts at the grassroots level while working in collaboration with the formalised support system.

FRRR recognises that, nationally, disaster management is a busy and complex space and so takes an inclusive approach through focusing efforts on the Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience as a supportive framework for affected communities, regardless of the type of climate related impact. While ‘drought’ by national definition and by program donors is not considered a disaster, it is listed in the community profile given its wide ranging local climatic and social impact, particularly given its history in the region and its close connection to both heatwaves and fire.

A key source of information for the Dallarnil community is the North Burnett Regional Council. For information about how to prepare for the next disaster, community members can visit Council’s Disaster Management section on their website: <https://northburnett.qld.gov.au/disaster-management/> and for up-to-date information during a disaster, can go directly to Council’s Emergency Dashboard: <https://emergency.northburnett.qld.gov.au/>.

Appendix A: Status of Initiatives

Initiative	Status	Resilience Dimension/s	Further Context	Next Steps
Resourcing the Dallarnil Hall as a Community Meeting Place through Events for Community Cohesion and Information Systems	RICE	Networks, Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support and Information	Consultation has been undertaken with North Burnett Regional Council's Disaster Management Officer regarding the role of the Dallarnil Hall before, during and after a disaster and how to ensure alignment between formal disaster management planning and this initiative.	<p>FRRR to determine charitability of initiative with Dallarnil Sports Club as auspicating body. If deemed charitable build understanding of project governance between Sporting Club and Working Group and what capacity building supports are required.</p> <p>Connect North Burnett Council with Working Group to build understanding of formalised emergency management plans and how this can inform initiative development.</p> <p>The Working Group, Red Earth and FRRR to refine project concept including complimentary activities that respond to the Resilience Dimensions including budget considerations.</p>
Resourcing of Dallarnil Hall as a Place of Refuge	NP	Resources, Tools and Support	Resourcing the Dallarnil Hall with generator/s to ensure the Hall can be used as a community place in the recovery phase of a disaster will be met through the Eligible Initiative, however NBRC DMO advised the Dallarnil Hall is not delegated as an Evacuation Center or Place of Refuge, and in the event that Council activated the hall as such, necessary resources would be provided by Council or emergency services	Nil

Initiative	Status	Resilience Dimension/s	Further Context	Next Steps
Town Siren and Phone Tree	NP	Self-Organising Systems	Both community members and NBRC DMO expressed concerns about the effectiveness and potential subjectiveness of both of these warning systems. Community consensus was to rely on formal warnings mechanisms, such as automated emergency text messages and the Council Emergency Dashboard, in combination with informal connection at a local level via a dedicated UHF channel	Nil

Project Developments Steps

NP	Discussed, Not Progressing
PDU	Project Development Underway
RICE	Ready for IAG Concept Endorsement
FAR	FRRR Application Ready
ASF	Application Submitted to FRRR
FBA	FRRR Board Approved
PC	Project Commenced

Appendix B: DR:FR Program Framework

Disaster Resilient : Future Ready
Where do communities start and how does it work? (The Phases)



Phase 2. Organise for Impact and Phase 3. Community Action Community Engagement and Activity

Throughout the project and more intensively through these phases, FRRR works directly or through partners/facilitators with community members and local organisations, supporting them to develop and activate strategic initiatives that enhance community resilience and disaster preparedness by:

- connecting people and organisations, understanding their community and building local capacity to work together.
- building awareness of climate risks, disaster impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Increasing knowledge of resilience principles and how they are applied.
- identifying opportunities and developing ideas for community-led action.
- making decisions and implementing actions prioritized by the community.

