

Disaster Resilient: Future Ready Burnett Inland

Roadmap to Resilience: Tansey



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



Australian Government

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Roadmap to Resilience: Tansey

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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; and
- 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, natural 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: Tansey** document has multiple purposes. Firstly, it serves to document the journey and outcomes of the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready** program in Tansey, 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 Tansey community.

Furthermore, the Roadmap is also a critical element in FRRR's granting due diligence and provides the FRRR Board, which ultimately approves 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, Tansey's Resilience Statement is:

Tansey is a safe community in times of disaster. Locals support each other and have the resources and essential supplies to be self-sufficient during times of isolation. People in the Tansey community have good avenues of communication with locals, travellers and emergency services, with systems in place to inform as many people as possible about impending impacts. Tansey is a community that bounces back quickly.

Section D: Summary of Community Engagement

In Tansey, community engagement was attempted in October and November of 2023, before finding a community champion to help activate the program in December 2023. Successful community engagement sessions were held in January, February, March, April and June 2024. During the community sessions, Tansey worked through the program framework, 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 and prioritised community-led initiatives. A detailed overview of community engagement is in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

Section E: Community Profile Summary

Desktop Analysis

At the start of the program, desktop analysis was conducted in relation to Tansey. The following summary of information was documented.

Township: Tansey is a small community that is located on the border of the Gympie region and is part of the Gympie Regional Council LGA, but its closest main community sits within the South Burnett Regional Council.

First Nations: Wakka Wakka people

SEIFA: 1,007 with a quintile of 3, percentile of 50

Population: 154 (2021)

Remoteness: Outer Regional RA3

Tansey is a rural town and locality in the Gympie Region, Queensland. The Burnett Highway passes through the south-west of the locality from Boonara in the south to Boobyjan in the west. The town is located on the highway at its intersection with the Kilkivan – Tansey Road, which provides a connection to Kilkivan. There are no schools in Tansey. The main community assets are the Tansey Showgrounds, Tansey Hall and the Tansey Bowls Club.

Tansey suffered considerable damage when a tornado struck the community in October 2018 and was inundated during the significant rain event in January and February 2022.

Tansey 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.
- October 2018: Tornado
- 2021 – May 2022: Drought declared
- January and February 2022: Significant rain event

Tansey falls under the **Gympie Regional Council's Disaster Management Plan**, which can be found on Council's website under Disasters and Emergencies: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/disasters-emergencies>.

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

Section F: Critical Dimensions for Community Resilience

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](#).

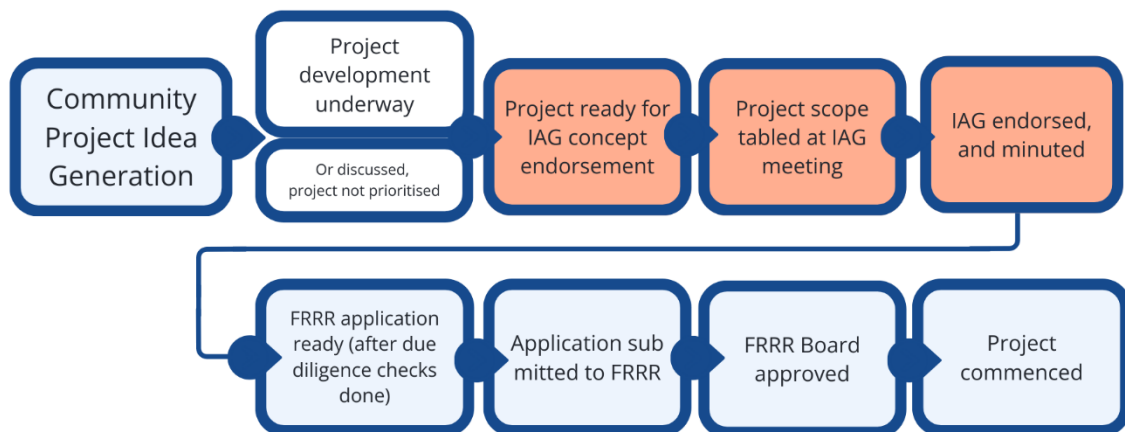
The seven Resilience Dimensions are outlined in the Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

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 does not meet 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.

Tansey Community Initiative Status:

As of late November 2024, Tansey has one project 'on the table': the 'Information for Disaster Preparedness' Initiative, which is detailed 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: Information for Disaster Preparedness

Lead Organisation: Tansey Ladies Bowling Club Inc.

Project Description: The development of digital and physical communications systems that will attract engagement from community members and tourists. The focus of the information will be appropriate disaster management messaging and resilience-building activities. Ideas include a digital and physical newsletter, a physical information sign and noticeboard and a public book exchange (as a means of attracting travellers to info points) with information sign on the side.

Indicative Cost: \$30,000

Expenditure Items:

- Equipment for printing and producing newsletter
- Initial supply of consumables, i.e. ink
- Community Noticeboard / Information Signs
- Community Book Exchange with Information Sign
- Communications Capacity Building Support and Systems

Stakeholders: Gympie Regional Council, Tansey Bowls Club, DR:FR Working Group (incorporating community members who have been involved in the DR:FR process and who represent a cross-section of community), Tansey Disaster Action Group (if activated), as well as the broader community, both locals and travellers.

What has identified the need for this initiative: The community has raised the need, and it is reflected in the community insights gathered through the DR:FR process including:

- Poor telecommunications in the area hindering information sharing and connection; and
- Disconnection between long-term residents and people who have recently relocated to the area, which puts newcomers at risk if they do not have the knowledge and understanding of significant potential disaster and weather event impacts.

With regard to the Resilience Dimensions, this initiative aligns with **Skills, Capacity and Knowledge, Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support, Information Sharing and Communication** and **Inclusion**. A full explanation of how this initiative meets each of these Resilience Dimensions is in Part 2 of the Roadmap to Resilience.

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

Community members will have increased access to support networks and appropriate disaster management information.

How does this initiative fit within the ecosystem of disaster preparedness, response and recovery within the local context? Engaging Gympie Regional Council to understand the disaster preparedness resources available will be a critical part of this initiative's development.

How will this initiative be maintained in the future? Through the strengthened relations between the Tansey community and Gympie Regional Council by supporting engagement with appropriate information. Working instructions to support ongoing volunteer engagement will also be considered through project development.

Conflict of Interests:

No noted conflicts of interest to declare in relation to Tansey's initiatives.

Quick DR:FR Program Guideline Alignment Check	
Tansey: Information for Disaster Preparedness Project	
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.

Different engagement methods were trialled in Tansey in October and November 2023, including flyers, social media and emails to a database, with little success. The key to engagement in this community was finding a local champion to share the program framework with and they, in turn, invited people to the first successful community workshop in December 2023. In December, 11 local residents attended the session at the Tansey Bowls Club, where the program framework was explained and the participants provided valuable information about their community, including what resilience means to Tansey. In January, 11 community members attended, including some generational farming families, who participated in interactive sessions to map People and Place.

In February 2024, five community members attended. During this small group session, the community mapping overview was presented and gaps were identified and documented. During this session, the Possibilities and Solutions ideas that had been generated to this point were also discussed and mapped against the Resilience Dimensions. Further Possibilities were also identified. In March, four community leaders attended, noting that a number of interested community members were away. During this session, participants assessed the initiatives according to a High / Low Impact v High / Low-Cost quadrant.

In April, seven community members and the newly-elected Gympie Regional Councillor for the area attended the session where initiatives were refined. The elected Councillor also made an informal presentation to the community about how Council may be able to collaborate with Tansey to find solutions, particularly in relation to there being no community-owned land that is not in a flood zone, to land a shipping container resourced with practical post-disaster recovery items such as tarps etc. In June, five community members attended a light touch community engagement session where both Red Earth and community members advised of progress since the last meeting, including quotes obtained (community) and work behind the scenes in exploring charitability concerns (Red Earth and FRRR).

Section I: Full Community Profile

Desktop Analysis

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

Tansey is a rural town and locality in the Gympie Region, Queensland. The north and centre of the locality is within Grongah National Park, which extends into neighbouring localities Malarga, Gigoomgan, Calgoa, and Mudlo. Apart from the National Park, the predominant land use is cattle grazing.

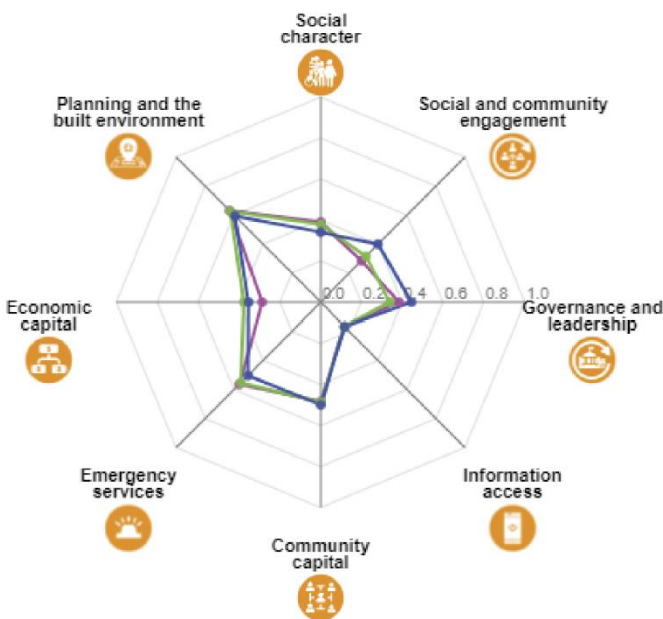
The town takes its name from selector Michael Tansey, a resident on "Lakeview" from 1877. Tansey sits within the State electorate of Nanango and the Federal division of Wide Bay.

There are no schools in Tansey. The nearest government primary schools are Kilkivan State School in neighbouring Kilkivan to the south-east and Goomeri State School in Goomeri to the south. Both schools also provide secondary education to Year 10. For secondary education to Year 12, the nearest government schools are Murgon State High School in Murgon to the south and James Nash State High School in Gympie to the south-east.

Tansey falls under the **Gympie Regional Council's Disaster Management Plan**, which can be found on Council's website under Disasters and Emergencies: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/disasters-emergencies>. It incorporates the Kilkivan Disaster Management Sub-Plan, which covers the Gympie Regional Council local government area. This contains the major part of the Mary River watershed that drains to the coast east of Maryborough, together with the watershed for Barambah, Nangur and Boonar Creeks, which drain into the Burnett River. The region has both rural and coastal topography. The western and south-western boundaries are formed mainly by several mountain ranges, including the Burnett, Coast and Jimna Ranges. The Mary River and its tributaries also flow from these areas. The Gympie Regional Council covers an area of 6,898 square km and the administrative centre is located at Gympie, approximately 170 km north of Brisbane and 45 km from the coast.

Disaster Resilience (Australian Disaster Resilience Index Map)

The Tansey area is in an area location classified as Not Assessed on the Australian Disaster Resilience Index map, as the location is too small. For the sake of this community profile, the Kilkivan area information has been used.



Disaster Resilience value of 0.3259.

The Kilkivan 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.

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

Coping Capacity value of 0.3213.

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 0.3076.

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 fabric of Tansey, including some community insights and concerns.

Services and Businesses

Education and Health

- Students travel to nearby schools by private vehicle or school bus, including Goomeri State School (P-10), Murgon High School, Kilkivan State School, or private schools in Gympie.
- Kindergarten is in Kilkivan.
- There is extremely limited childcare in the area.
- There is no local doctor, with people attending medical appointments in Murgon or Kilkivan.
- Nearest hospital is in Murgon.
- NDIS participants struggle to find providers.
- External services that service Tansey include Centacare, BlueCare, Graham House and KilkivanKare.

Businesses

- There are no shops in the Tansey township.
 - Residents shop in Murgon, Gympie, Goomeri and Kingaroy
 - Coles delivers to Tansey
 - The nearest fuel station is in Goomeri
 - Tradespeople, such as electrical, building and plumbing, come from Goomeri and Murgon
- Waterfall Feedlot is privately owned and employs 35 people.

Organisations and Community Groups

- Tansey Bowls Club
- Tennis Club
- Polocrosse
- Show Society
- Craft Group (meets weekly at Apostolic Church in Goomeri)

Emergency Services

- Ambulance (based in Murgon; Gympie will also attend if required)
- Fire Brigade
 - Urban Fire Brigade (based in Goomeri)
 - Quite a few slip-ons in the area
 - Rural Fire Brigade (based at Boobyjan)
- Police (based in Goomeri)
- SES (based in Goomeri)

Infrastructure

- Bowls Club (independent with own Deed)
- The 39-acre Sports and Recreation Grounds, of which the Council is the Trustee, is home to:
 - Tennis Court
 - Tansey Hall
 - Polocrosse
 - Showgrounds
- Telstra Tower & Exchange
- Cemetery
- Phone Box
- Toilets and Park
- Boonara Church

Events

- Community Night at the Bowls Club every second Friday night
- Annual Life Flight charity day held in mid-May in conjunction with the Boonara Masonic Lodge
- Annual campdraft

Other

- AgForce (member-based organisation)
- Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG)
- Library and bookstore (in Goomeri)
- Information Centre (based in Goomeri)

Natural Environment

- Boonara / Nangur Creek catchment system
- Gronah / Mudlo National Park

Community Insights

- There is a disconnect between long-term residents and people who have recently relocated to the area, which puts newcomers at risk if they do not have the knowledge and understanding of significant potential disaster and weather event impacts.

- Travellers and overnight campers at the Tansey Hall or Bowls Club are at-risk due to lack of awareness of how significant flash flooding or other disaster impacts could be.
- Tansey has some foundational third- and fourth generation farming families living on properties in the area, while the Tansey 'township' is mostly retirees.
- While some members of the Tansey Bowls Club and Polocrosse are local residents, many live elsewhere.
- There are quite a few children and youth living in Tansey, however they have to access school, social and sporting opportunities in Murgon, Kilkivan, Goomeri and Kingaroy.
- Tansey identified their vulnerable people as those who are aged, as well as travellers and new residents, plus farm and feedlot employees.
- Funding has been obtained to fix flood damage from the 2022 rain event. However, progress has been slow and community members are fatigued and feel that they have not yet rebounded from the significant rain event.
- The Rural Fire Brigade has lost a lot of members due to volunteer requirements.
- The 2022 rain event was a shock event to locals due to the unprecedented speed and volume of the water. It resulted in stranded travellers, placed emergency services at-risk during response attempts: two men sheltered in a tree until the next day; a young girl was washed away and not recovered (an extremely traumatic event); plus a father and daughter tied themselves into a tree to keep themselves safe until they could seek help the following morning.

Community Concerns

- Locals need the ability to act on local knowledge (i.e., qualifications and delegation) to put out Road Closure signs during significant weather events.
 - Local context: It is often assumed that if someone is stranded or washed away in flood waters that they have been foolish or driven into the water, however that is not always the case. Community members believe that, in 2022, the road stayed open for too long, resulting in a father and daughter being washed away.
- Many farm businesses do not participate in community activities.
- Tansey gets isolated very quickly during rain events, making it much harder to access support.

“This community always pulls together in a positive way when faced with disaster.”

Tansey Community Member, DR:FR Community Session, December 2023

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 the 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/dfrf>), 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.

Local Tansey community leader, Rachael Lehmann, attended the 2024 AIDR conference as part of the DR:FR Burnett Inland delegation. Rachael has much lived experience with climatic disaster events and wants to see her community get better at flexing during disaster response and recovery, because how an event unfolds and the resulting impact changes every time. Rachael's key takeaways from the AIDR conference were: that it is important to 'rebuild better'; and that it is essential to involve youth in the preparedness, recovery and disaster response space, bringing them into the conversation and inviting them to be part of the solution.

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; and
- 96% were inspired to act on new ideas.

Local Tansey community leader Rachael Lehmann was one of the panelists on the Disaster Resilience Leadership Lounge session at the 2024 Red Earth Leadership Forum. The Forum's theme was Resilience, and the panel session focussed on disaster preparedness from a local, state and national perspective. Rachael was awarded Gympie Regional Council's inaugural Australia Day Resilience Award for her flood recovery efforts in Tansey.

"Community is important. Resources are essential. Trust yourself and step up as a leader."

Rachael Lehmann, Tansey Community Leader at the Red Earth Leadership Forum, August 2024

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 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 , “in a major flood, the catchment will force communities to work together”.

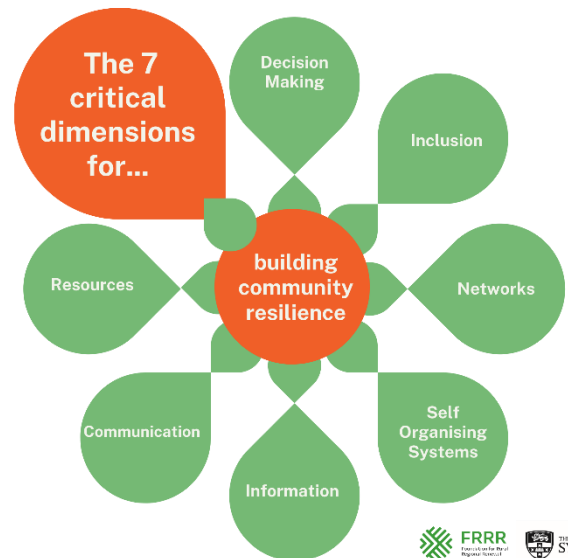
3) Resilience Dimensions

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.



Adapted from: Howard, A., Rawsthorne, M. and Joseph, P. (2022) Critical Dimensions in Community Disaster Resilience [Fact Sheet], University of Sydney for the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

Local Context: *Tansey has strong formal networks, including the Tansey Bowls Club, Tansey Show Society, Tansey Tennis Club and Polocrosse. While everyone pulls together in times of crisis, it is noted that local organisations tend to operate as silos. There is also the potential to form a new network as a result of this program: the Tansey Disaster Action Group.*

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 extensive local knowledge in Tansey, and it is important to the community to share that local knowledge with others – particularly those travelling through or staying overnight, as they may not be aware of the potential disaster impacts. This local knowledge will help inform the design of the information that is featured on the community noticeboard and book exchange sign.*

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: *Self-organising systems shine through in Tansey during a disaster response, and during the recovery phase. Community members organise themselves and others, particularly because they are likely to be isolated for three to four days.*

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: *Tansey is aware of the vulnerable people within the community and actively takes them into consideration when planning disaster preparedness strategies, i.e. how to provide information in an accessible way.*

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: *This type of communication has been somewhat lacking in the Tansey community, with community groups often operating in silos. It is hoped the establishment of the Tansey Disaster Action Group will amplify this Resilience Dimension and enable improved communications between organisations and community collaborators.*

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: *Tansey has a proven ability to draw on local skills, knowledge, effort and time to activate collective action in times of disaster. Both the Tansey Bowls Club and the Tansey Hall Committee have been successful in obtaining external financial support through significant funding for facility repairs following the 2022 rain event.*

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: *Tansey has, to this point, felt somewhat forgotten and ignored when it comes to inclusive decision-making. Until recently, a local Council representative had not visited in-community for quite some time. Tansey has a strong collective community voice and hopes to leverage the DR:FR program to broker connection with the Gympie Regional Council in order for some inclusive decision-making to be activated.*

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 **Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support, Communication, Information** and **Inclusion** Resilience Dimensions.

The development of a local community newsletter and the establishment of a book exchange will both require **Self-Organising Systems** for their success. The activation of the Tansey Disaster Action Group will reinforce the community's ability to self-organise during the Preparedness, Response and Recovery phases of a disaster.

The **Resources, Tools and Support** Resilience Dimension is met by leveraging generous community contributions of skills, knowledge, effort and time, particularly in relation to the development and distribution of a regular community newsletter. The provision of practical resources (e.g. a noticeboard) also align with this Dimension.

This Initiative also amplifies both **Information** and **Communication**. Locally-generated information will be gathered and tailored to the context and will then be shared with the wider community through the community noticeboard, newsletter and signage at the book exchange.

This Initiative also has a strong **Inclusion** focus, based in the consideration of vulnerable people, particularly newcomers and travellers to ensure they have access to relevant localised and general disaster information.

These alignments make the "Information for Disaster Preparedness" Initiative a strong example of how local, community-led solutions can meet critical Resilience Dimensions while addressing specific local challenges.

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 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 impact, particularly given its history in the region and its close connection to both heatwaves and fire.

A key source of information for the Tansey community is Gympie Regional Council. For information about how to prepare for the next disaster, community members can visit Council’s Disasters and Emergencies section on their website: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/disasters-emergencies> and for up-to-date information during a disaster, can go directly to Council’s Disaster Dashboard: <https://disaster.gympie.qld.gov.au/>.

Appendix A: Status of Initiatives

Initiative	Status	Resilience Dimension/s	Further Context	Next Steps
1.Information for Disaster Preparedness	RICE	Self-Organising Systems, Resources, Tools and Support, Communication and Information.	It is of high importance to the Tansey community to provide local-context information to the wider community and travelling public, i.e. this area is subject to flash flooding. Information will align with the disaster management ecosystem, promoting 000, the Council's Emergency Dashboard and providing a local contact for assistance in the event of an emergency.	Engage Gympie Regional Council's Disaster Management Officer (DMO) to understand disaster information resources available and broker connection to community to support initiative development. FRRR to check charitability and governance of project. FRRR and Red Earth to work with initiative working group to develop required project resourcing, sustainability measures and identify if further capacity building is required.
2.Essential Supplies Shipping Container for Post-event Recovery	PDU		It has been identified that there is no community-owned land that is unaffected by the impacts of flooding. The suggestion for the shipping container to be located on private land would not be charitable. Solutions will continue to be explored, as this initiative is important to the Tansey community.	Engage Gympie Council DMO to understand disaster information resources available and broker connection to community to support initiative development. FRRR to check charitability and governance of project.

Initiative	Status	Resilience Dimension/s	Further Context	Next Steps
3.Traffic Management Training for Local Decision-Making	PDU	Decision Making	During the flash flooding events in January / February 2022, lives were put at risk because Council could not get through to put up 'Road Closed' signs. Having locals trained in Traffic Management would provide Council with people on-the-ground to put out these signs, and also provide key information to Council during an event due to the formalised relationship between Council and the Tansey Disaster Action Group.	Engage Gympie Council DMO to understand disaster information resources available and broker connection to community to support initiative development. FRRR to check charitability and governance of project.

Project Developments Steps

DNP	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.

