



# THE CHANNON & SURROUNDS DISASTER RESILIENCE PLAN

April 2021



## Acknowledgment of Country

The Channon Disaster Resilience Group acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land over which this document was prepared, the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation, and we pay our respect to all Aboriginal people of this land and to Elders past, present and future.

Through understanding the significant knowledge and practice of Caring for Country by traditional custodians of the land, together we can build a more resilient and prosperous community.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the  
Prime Minister and Cabinet**

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*This project is funded under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCRERF) - a joint disaster recovery funding arrangement between the NSW and Commonwealth Government.*

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# About The Channon and Surrounds Disaster Resilience Plan

We have developed this Disaster Resilience Plan to help us better prepare and manage the risk of natural disasters in our community. Being ready for disasters limits the negative impact disasters can have. This project aims to strengthen The Channon and Surrounds community and sets out the actions our community wishes to take to become more resilient.

Community-led recovery is central to our approach and this Disaster Resilience Plan has been informed by issues and priorities raised by our community and developed in parallel with the establishment of The Channon Disaster Resilience Group.

Lismore City Council is committed to strengthening local community capacity to respond and recover effectively in future disasters. The impact of the 2019/ 2020 bushfires on The Channon and Surrounds community was identified and Lismore City Council recognised the opportunity for the communities to reflect on, and learn from, their experience and to develop specific placed based disaster recovery plans.

The project is made possible through Lismore City Council with funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience & Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 (BCRERF Phase 1), which was provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



## Get in touch

If you would like to find out more information about The Channon Disaster Resilience Group or this Disaster Resilience Plan, please reach out to us:

**Email:** [thechannonhub@gmail.com](mailto:thechannonhub@gmail.com)

**Connect on Facebook:** Did you know The Channon community has a Facebook page? Search "The Channon Hook-ups" and you will be able to connect with our community.



Members of The Channon Disaster Resilience Group

# 1. Introduction

The Channon and Surrounds is an environmentally, socially and economically unique area, which is characterised by the depth of values, harmonious connections and inclusivity shared by our residents. These values go to the core of our community and individual identity.

What makes our environment so special and unique can also make us vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards, and while it is a magical place to live, The Channon and Surrounds have experienced many natural disasters over the years.

From flooding to bushfire, landslips and severe storms to heatwaves and droughts, The Channon and Surrounds communities are familiar with the onset of disaster events. In particular, the 2019/ 2020 bushfires have had a profound effect on our community and environment. Recovery from this event is vital to ensure the wellbeing of individuals and our community.

Into the future, our community is not immune from larger magnitude events, and community-led disaster resilience and preparation will empower us all to work better together to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from disasters – to maintain and protect our community values and cohesiveness.

This Disaster Resilience Plan provides a pathway to help us be more resilient, live with nature, and adapt to a changing climate.

## **What disasters does this Disaster Resilience Plan cover?**

This Disaster Resilience Plan considers all natural disasters that occur in The Channon and Surrounds including:

- Bushfire
  - Flood
  - Storm event
- Other natural disasters such as landslip and heatwave

The Disaster Resilience Plan does not cover other disasters like pandemics, earthquake or infrastructure failure, which organisations/government outside The Channon and surrounds have responsibility for.


## 1.1 Why do we need a Disaster Resilience Plan?

Recent times have shown us that The Channon and Surrounds are not immune to the potentially devastating impact of a broad range of natural disasters. The Channon and Surrounds are familiar with the onset of disaster events from flooding to bushfire and severe storms to heatwaves. A changing climate is likely to amplify the impacts and place increased pressure on our capacity to respond.

The Channon and Surrounds communities are experienced at preparing for and responding to disasters such as flood and extreme weather. However due to climate change, future events will likely be experienced at a greater intensity and frequency, amplifying the impacts and increasing the need to be prepared and work together.

We need to understand these risks better and how to live with an increased threat of disaster in a way that prepares us to protect what is most important and forge a path forward, thrive, and grow as a close community.

Working together – as a community with government and non-government organisations – we can build our resilience to the impacts of climate change and minimise the impact of future disasters.



“The community spirit and ethos is amazing, I feel it’s ongoing efforts (like this) will ensure we respond effectively and collectively to whatever the future brings us.”

“Climate change demands action at a national level and we should as a community do all we can to pressure state and commonwealth governments to take meaningful action on carbon emissions and keep emphasising the connection between carbon emissions, extreme weather events and disaster risk”

“This survey is sharp reminder that just because it has been very wet, we must remember to continue and enhance our readiness to respond and ongoing preparations”

Source: The Channon / Terania Creek Disaster Project - Outreach Survey (December 2020 / January 2021)

# Projected changes



## Projected temperature changes



Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 1.0°C

Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.5 – 2.4°C



Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.5 – 1.0°C

Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.6 – 2.5°C



The number of hot days will increase

The number of cold nights will decrease

## Projected rainfall changes



Rainfall is projected to decrease in winter

Rainfall is projected to increase in autumn and spring

## Projected Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) changes



Average fire weather is projected to increase in summer and spring

Severe fire weather days are projected to increase in summer and spring

## Impacts of climate change on the North Coast

Source: North-Coast-Climate-Change-Downloads, Nov 2014



## 1.2 Aim of this Disaster Resilience Plan

This Disaster Resilience Plan aims to clarify what is needed for The Channon and Surrounds community to build future resilience and provide recovery from recent events by establishing actions and programs that our community can implement.

The Plan will help our community to respond before, during and after a disaster. This includes recovering from the 2019/2020 bushfire season and preparing for other likely disasters such as floods or storm events.

It also provides practical and useful information for our community to use when preparing, preventing, responding or recovery from a disaster.



**After the 2019/2020 bushfire**

### 1.3 Achieving our actions

Undertaking actions in this Plan will occur progressively over time. This will be an ongoing process, particularly in relation to informing grant applications.

Our community's ability to prepare for, cope with, and recover can change over time based on our experiences, resources, wellbeing, and other factors. Because of this, tailored or iterative approaches will be most effective.

It is for this reason actions may change, and The Channon Disaster Resilience Group will continuously amend the actions accordingly. This is the nature of disaster management.



### 1.4 The Channon Disaster Resilience Group

The Channon Disaster Resilience Group has played a fundamental role in shaping and creating this Disaster Resilience Plan for our community.

The Group will also administer this Plan in the future. The actions will be driven through the strong leadership of the Group with the help of The Channon and Surrounds community.

The Group recognises the importance of working together to plan for and respond to disaster events. The Channon Disaster Resilience Group will also work with levels of government to build a shared understanding of responding, recovering, preparing and preventing disasters and to implement this Plan.



**The Channon Disaster Resilience Group project workshop**

## 2. Our principles

These principles are based on community values and will guide our community in its future decision making as we implement this Plan.



### Preparing

We will plan and take action to prepare for disasters.



### Connecting

As a cohesive and caring community, we understand the importance of coming together to help and support each other.



### Understanding

We understand the risks and will learn from a range of sources. We will use this knowledge to respond to and be resilient from disasters.

# 3. Our community

## 3.1 Who is The Channon and Surrounds community?

The Channon and Surrounds community comprises The Channon village and surrounding communities, as shown on the map (next page).

This map indicates the area and loosely represents the location that this Plan applies to in the event of a disaster. While it does provide an estimated location where the community lives, works and visits, it is acknowledged that there may be many other people who are impacted by disasters that do not live in this location that will benefit from the aims and actions contained in this Plan.

Our community lives south of Nightcap National Park, approximately 18 kilometres south/ south-east of Nimbin and 25 kilometres north of Lismore town centre, in an area of over 60 square kilometres. The land is made up of a variety of rural interests, including grazing and cropping, environmental protection as well as intentional communities.

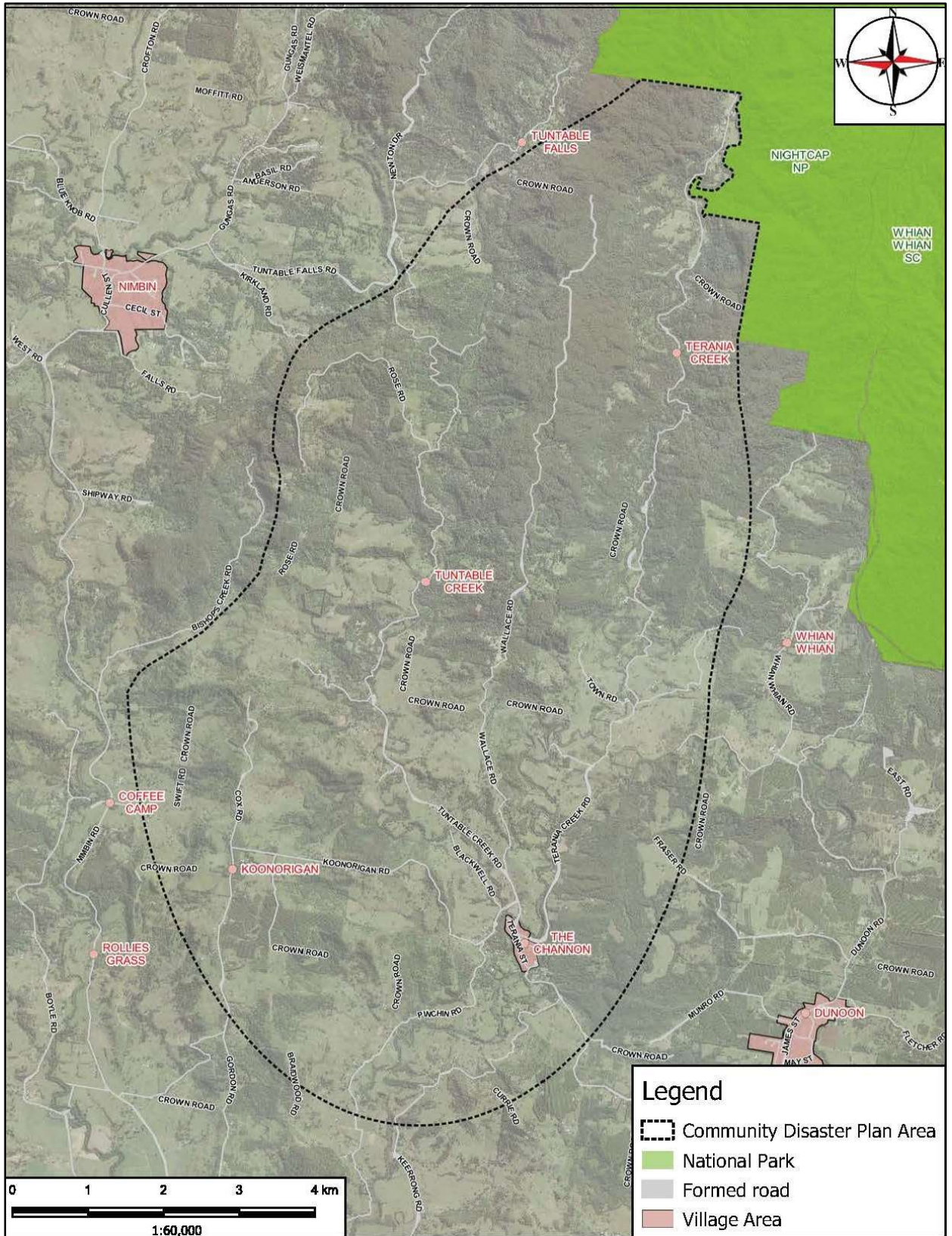
It is home to iconic landscapes, environmental attributes and a sense of community and identity that sets us apart. These unique attributes go to the very heart of who we are and form a significant part of our individual and collective community values.

The Channon and Surrounds sits within the boundaries of the Widjbal people of the Bundjalung Nation, the traditional custodians of the land.

### Vulnerable people in our community

We acknowledge that the effects of disasters are felt first and most significantly by people with vulnerabilities. In our community the outreach survey found:





## Disaster Plan Area

Source: Lismore City Council

## Community snapshot



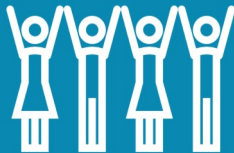
### Total population

750 persons



### Persons aged over 65

23% (Plan area) v 21% (regional NSW)



### Persons aged under 19

23% (Plan area) v 24% (regional NSW)



### Aboriginal and / or TSI persons

2.4% (plan area) v 5.5% (regional NSW)



### Low income (<\$650/week/individual)

56.9% (Plan area) v 48.7% (regional NSW)



### Households with children < 15 years old

118 households

## 3.2 The strengths in The Channon and Surrounds community

The following is a summary of assets within our community regarding physical infrastructure, organisations and rhythm. This is important both in terms of having a general understanding of how our community operates that will be an asset before, during and after a disaster. These strengths will contribute to resilience building activities such as knowledge, skills, associations, relationships, tools, equipment, etc.

### What are our current connections?

The sense of community connectedness is one of the recognised strengths for The Channon and Surrounds.

Locations where strong community connections and activities take place frequently, are The Channon Hall (such as classes, fundraising, music and school performance events), The Channon Tavern (such as The Channon Folk Club), The Channon Cafe and The Channon General Store.

Coronation Park (The Channon Oval) also provides a wonderful location for The Channon Market, touch football, pony club, fitness classes, frisbee competitions, school sports days and social interaction.

The Channon region includes several intentional communities (multiple occupancies) that already provide strong community connections. Some of these communities have workdays that are open to the public and showcase strengths such as sustainable living and regenerative farming practices.



**The Channon Tavern**



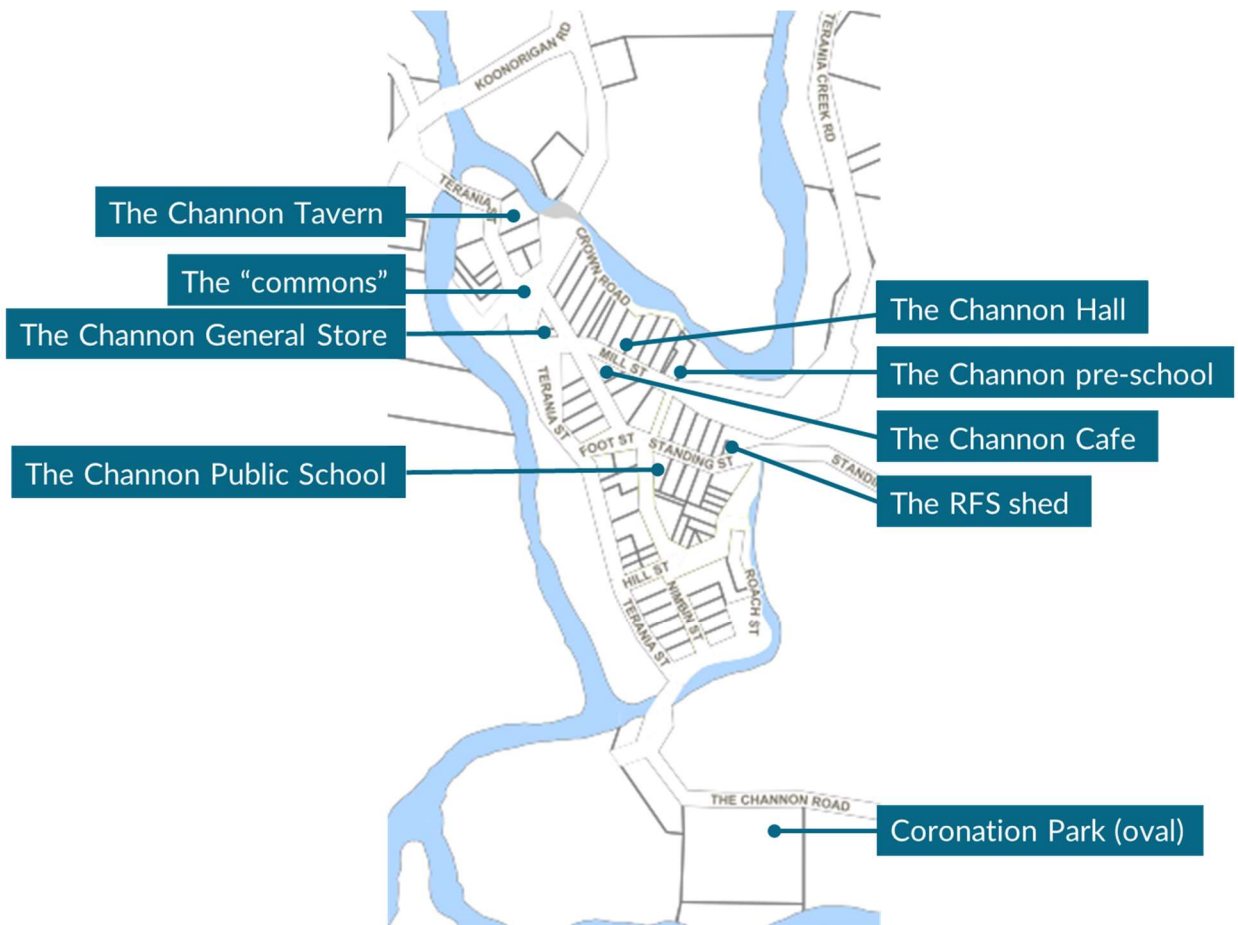
**The Channon General Store**

## What are our community groups or organisations?

A list of local community organisations and contacts are set out in Appendix B. This list provides important connections within the community which will be a source of important resources for use before, during and after a disaster.

## What are our current physical assets?

Understanding our physical assets visually represents all of our community's assets to support building resilience and responding to disasters. The physical assets within our community include the following:



## Where are our evacuation centres located?

- Lismore Showgrounds, Alexandra Parade, North Lismore
- Southern Cross University - Military Road, East Lismore



## What are our current strengths?

The outreach survey (discussed further in section 5.2) asked what our community's strengths were during the 2019/2020 bushfire. The highest response was the strength of the community connections. The strength of our community leaders during a stressful time was also pointed out as a significant asset. We also acknowledge that our natural environment and the forests in which we live are one of our strengths.



*Source: The Channon / Terania Creek Disaster Project  
Outreach Survey (December 2020/ January 2021)*

## 4. Our disaster exposures

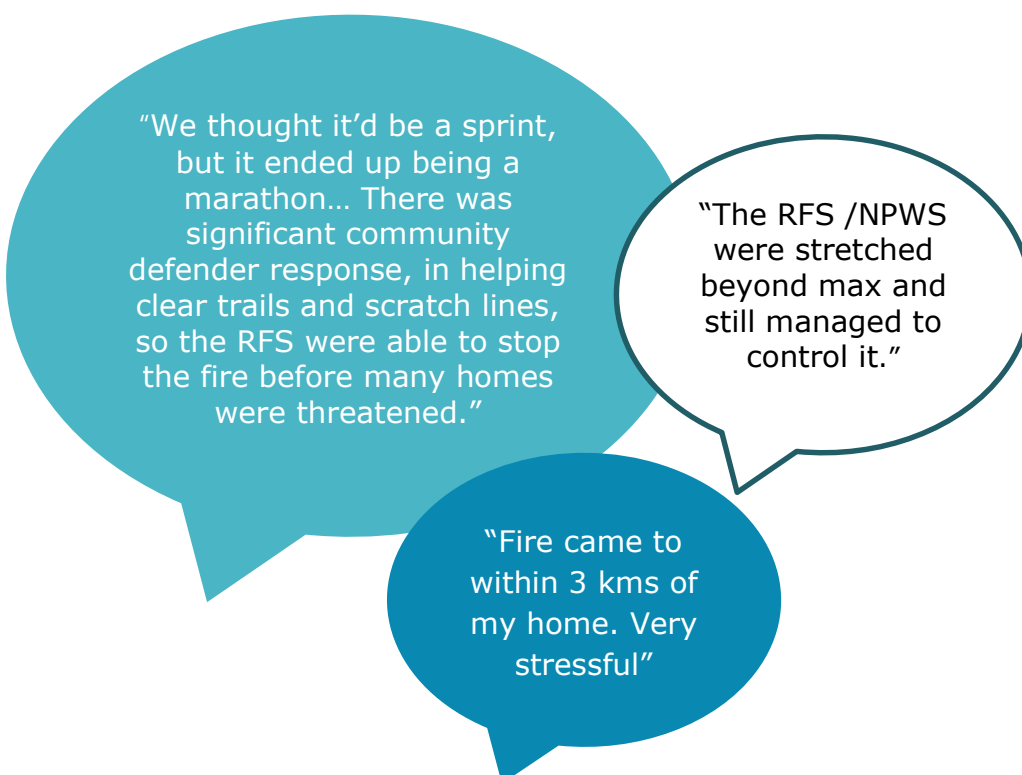
### 4.1.1 Bushfires

Bushfires are unmanaged fires that burn uncontrollably. The severity of the bushfire season can be dependent on how dry the winter and spring have been. Managing fire is vital for protecting our homes and maintaining environmental habitats.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) undertake fire management activities such as planned burns where appropriate. With significant areas of rainforest in The Channon and surrounds, planned burns are not necessarily feasible. In Northern NSW the bushfire season traditionally runs from August to December each year, so most planned burns occur in early winter and anywhere between February and August.

### Our experiences

The 2019/2020 bushfires represented an unprecedented event for The Channon and Surrounds. Drought and widespread, protracted heatwave conditions combined with gusty winds created a catastrophic fire danger. Starting within the Nightcap National Park/Mt Nardi, the bushfire of November 2019 quickly spread to neighbouring properties. During this time, our community gathered to defend the fire and assist the RFS volunteers.



*Source: The Channon / Terania Creek Disaster Project - Outreach Survey (December 2020/ January 2021) and notes from Fire debrief 2019*

The first sighting of the fire originated on Friday, 8 November 2019. This fire soon spread to the south onto the Nicholson's property and east onto Tuntable Falls community on 9 November 2019. By Sunday, 10 November 2019, the fire front was moving south down both sides of Wallace Road. By Wednesday 13 November, the fire reached the Siddha Farm community and onto Rainbow Falls Community on the western side of Terania valley.

These were extremely intense days for our community and the local RFS brigades involved. Due to the magnitude of the fires elsewhere across NSW the RFS had classed the Mount Nardi fire as a lesser priority. In this situation, property owners and our community came together to assist the local brigades. Coordinators stated the community was critical in helping clear fire trails, create containment lines, putting out spot fires and patrolling the lines. The community coordinated food and resources such as equipment to defend the properties.



**2019/2020 bushfires**

## How do I know if I am located on bushfire prone land?

Bush fire prone land is land that is likely to be subject to bushfire attack. In dry and gusty conditions, anywhere can burn, as seen in 2019 across vast areas of NSW. The Bush Fire Prone Land Map applying to Lismore was prepared following the Rural Fire Service (RFS) guidelines. Lismore City Council works with the Rural Fire Service to develop the maps, and they are updated periodically to reflect changes in vegetation or legislation.

New development on bush fire prone land must comply with the provisions of the NSW Rural Fire Service publication, 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019'. The map relevant to our community is shown on the next page.

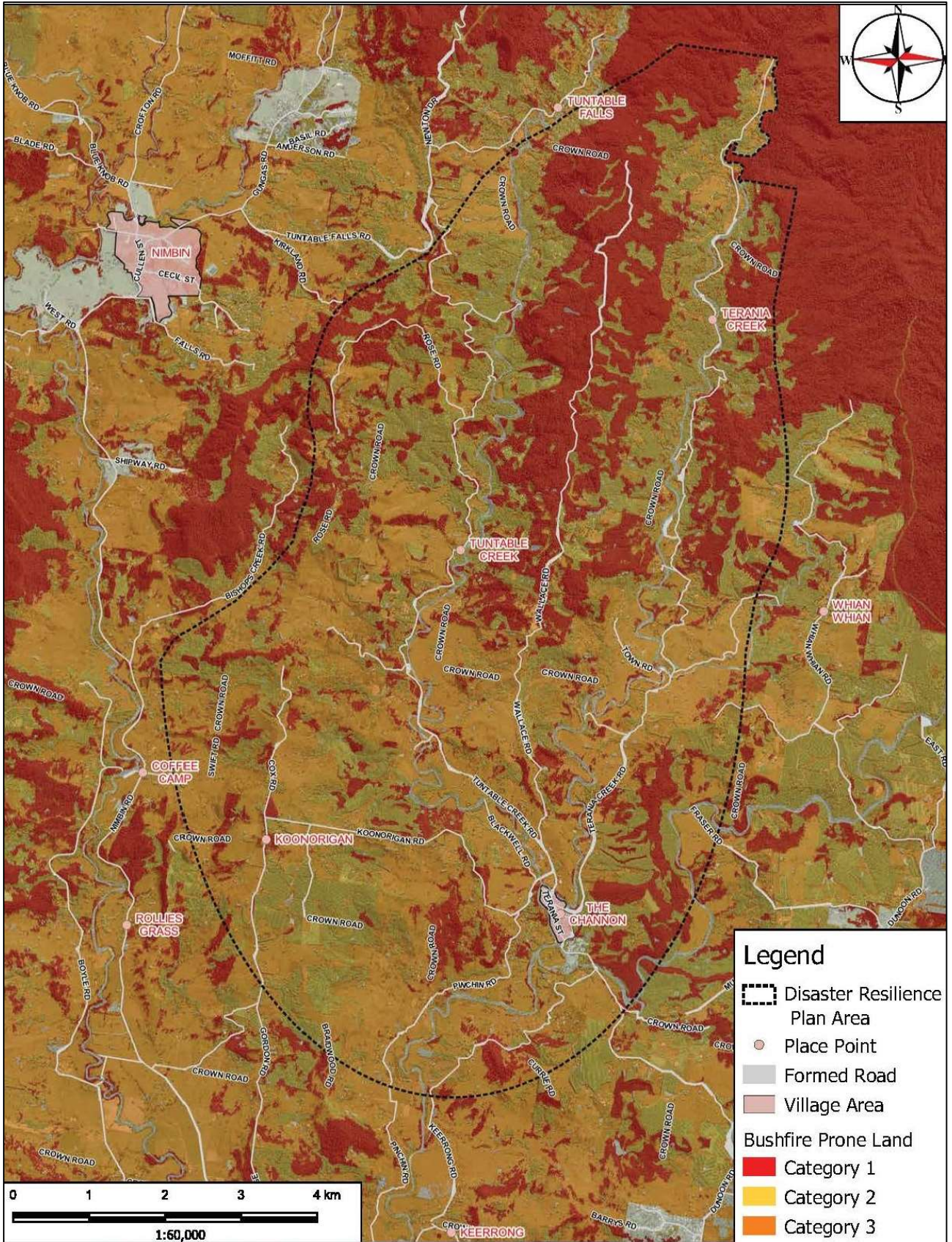
**Vegetation Category 1 (red):** Land considered to be the highest risk for bushfire and surrounded by a 100m buffer (buffer is yellow)

**Vegetation Category 2 (light orange):** Land is considered to be a lower bush fire risk than categories 1 and 3. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).

**Vegetation Category 3 (dark orange):** Land is considered to be a medium bush fire risk. Surrounded by a 30m buffer (buffer is yellow).



2019/2020 bushfires



## Bushfire prone land

Source: Lismore City Council

## 4.2 Flooding

The Northern Rivers is one of the most flood prone areas in NSW. Terania Creek is part of the Richmond catchment - it is often subject to significant flooding. Flooding happens when heavy rainfalls over the Terania Creek catchment. Run-off from houses and streets also contributes to Terania Creek flooding. The combination of heavy rain, run-off and the existing water in the creek causes creek levels to rise.

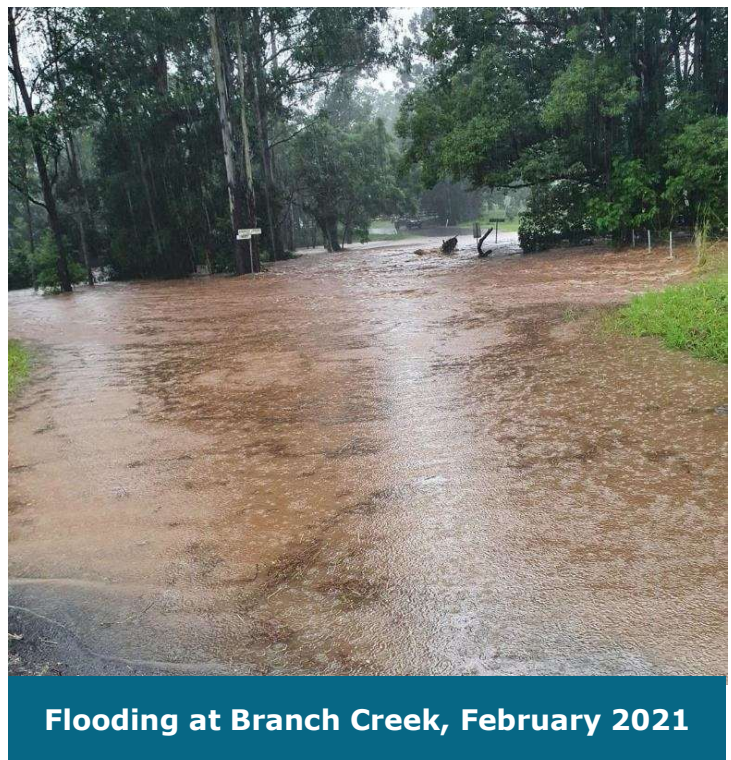
Our community can experience flooding from the overland flow as well. Overland flow is run-off that travels over the land during heavy rainfall events. Overland flow can be unpredictable because it is affected by localised rainfall and urban features such as stormwater pipes, roads, fences, walls and other structures. The actual depth and impact of overland flow vary depending on local conditions, but it generally occurs quickly.

Lismore City Council develops flood prone maps to understand flood hazard reduction in developed areas and to ensure that new development is compatible with the flood hazard and does not create additional flooding problems. The map relevant to our community is shown below.

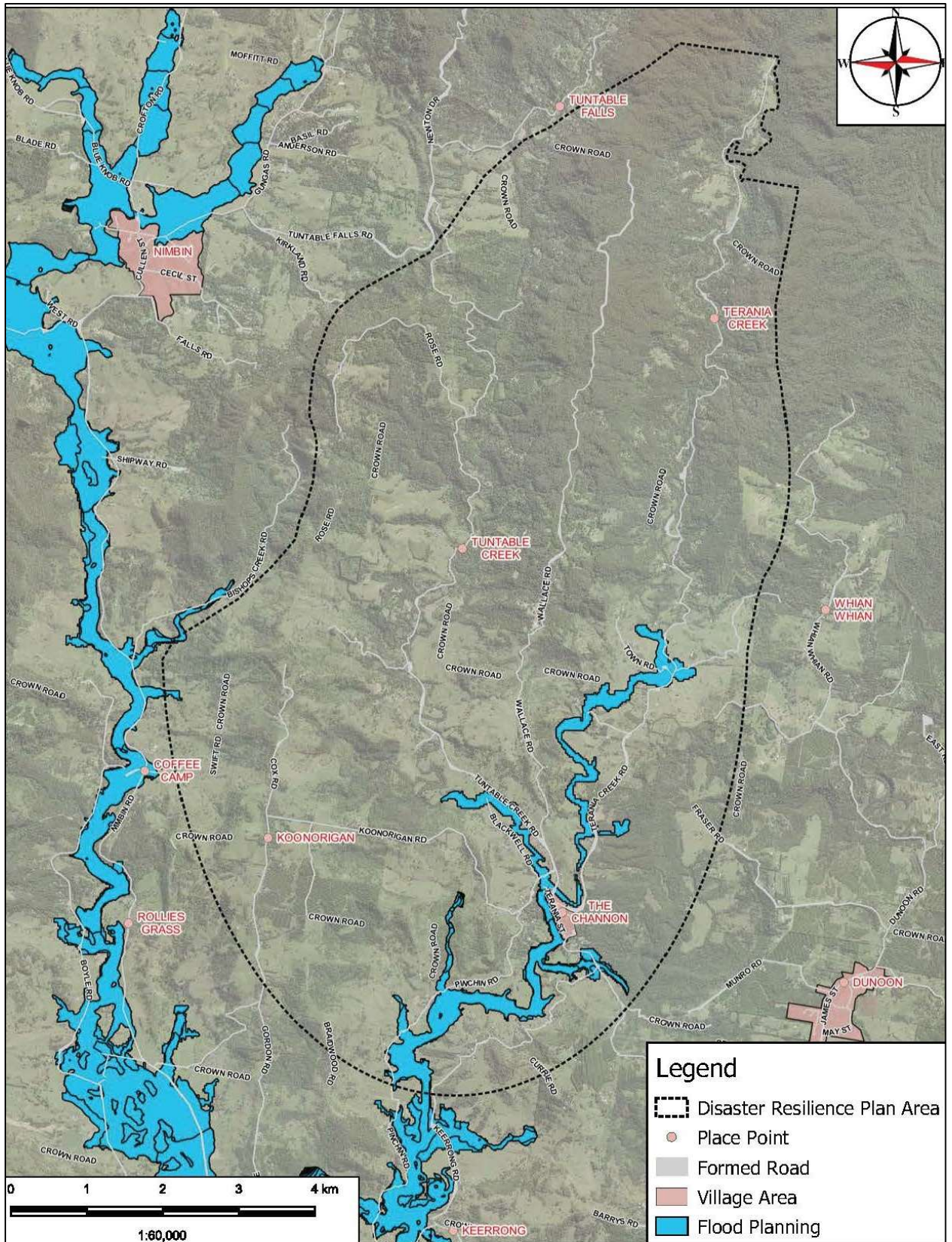
### Our experiences

Floods are naturally recurring events in the Richmond catchment, with the earliest recorded flood since European settlement dating back to 1857. The latest flood, which was declared a natural disaster in the area, occurred in December 2020.

During a flood event, the most immediate impact to The Channon and Surrounds is damage to roads and bridges. Our community can be significantly affected by the closure of roads as repairs to infrastructure can extend over long-time frames, causing inconvenience and expense. Activities come to a standstill; many community members are cut off or are forced to leave their homes, and normal life is disrupted. Floods can also cause the destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and deterioration of health conditions owing to waterborne diseases.



Source: Liam Milne, 2021



## Flood prone land

Source: Lismore City Council

### 4.3 Storm events & East Coast lows

Severe thunderstorms are the most common and damaging storm types in NSW resulting in building damage and infrastructure failure from lightning, wind, rain and hail.

Storms are atmospheric disturbances usually characterised by strong and hazardous winds, frequently combined with heavy rain, snow, sleet, hail, ice and/or lightning and thunder. This definition includes unusual meteorological disturbances, such as tornadoes or waterspouts, caused by severe thunderstorms.

East Coast Lows (ECLs) are intense low-pressure systems that occur off the east coast of Australia. They can form at any time of the year and significant ECLs occur on average about 10 times each year across the NSW coast. They are more common during autumn and winter with peak frequency in June. ECLs will often intensify rapidly overnight making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the NSW coast. These storms can bring damaging winds and heavy rainfall often resulting in flooding.

#### Our experiences

Severe storms are a natural part of living in The Channon and Surrounds subtropical climate with the storm season typically running from September to March each year. In 2007 in Lismore 7cm diameter hail was recorded and a natural disaster was declared with more than 17 people injured. The event caused \$59m worth of damage. East Coast lows have historically brought intense rainfall and flooding to our community and will do so again.



**Hail in 2014**

*Source: Denise Cox and Jon Noble*



## 4.4 Landslip

Landslips usually involve the movement of large amounts of earth, rock, sand or mud or any combination of these. Landslips are generally caused by heavy rain. This occurs when rain saturates the soil on a hillside – often where there has been human activity, for example, a construction where trees and plants have been removed. In some cases, remaining vegetation may not be able to support the soil's weight against the force of gravity causing the top saturated layer of soil to slip down the slope, taking whatever is on the land with it. In areas burned by fire, a lower threshold of rainfall may initiate landslips due to the damaged nature of the landscape.

### Our experiences

Landslips are a moderate risk to our community. There is evidence that landslips have been occurring in The Channon and Surrounds for over 40 years. Given flooding is a frequent occurrence in The Channon and Surrounds, that will likely continue. Following Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and the subsequent storm events in the region, there were a significant number of landslip in The Channon and Surrounds. This caused a substantial amount of damage to roads and vegetation.



**Landslip at Terania Creek Road**

*Source: Michael Murphy*

## 4.5 Heatwaves

A heatwave occurs when there are three or more days of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the main health illnesses connected with heat and heatwaves, relating to a person's body temperature.

Heatwaves result in more fatalities in Australia than all natural disasters combined. Heatwaves can also increase the severity of drought and risk of bushfires.

### Our experiences

Heatwaves are a high risk to our community. During these periods, people in our community living with disabilities and chronic health conditions are affected the most, having difficulty coping with extreme heat conditions. Prior to the 2019 / 2020 bushfires, the Channon and Surrounds had to endure several heatwaves during the drought.



RFS truck after the 2019/ 2020 bushfires

# 5. Our research and learnings

## 5.1 How the Plan was developed

This Plan has been developed in a collaborative, coordinated and adaptable way with our community leading the process, outcomes and actions.



## 5.2 What we know so far?

### Community resilience workshop

Following the 2019/2020 bushfire, our community recognised the need to organise and prepare for the growing impacts of climate change and to increase our resilience on many levels. We organised a 4-hour resilience workshop in our local hall, which over 100 local residents attended.

We drew inspiration from stories of other communities around the world. The workshop was a catalyst for ideas and a number of interest/action groups formed, including the continued community organisation, food and water security during a disaster, health and wellbeing, education for our community, learning from indigenous communities, youth led perspectives, increased need for fire planning and changing government perspectives on the climate.

The outcomes from that workshop provided some initial community views and aspirations that have contributed to this Plan's development.



Community workshop – March 2021

## After action review

Shortly after the Terania/ Mt Nardi bushfire, a facilitated After-Action Review was held with key community members present to assess what we did well and how we could do better in a similar future situation.

## Outreach survey

As part of developing this Plan, an online survey was completed during December 2020/ January 2021. This was targeted towards The Channon and Surrounds to understand the bushfire's impact and how to best support our community's preparation, resilience, and recovery for future natural disasters. The insights provide a platform for us to work with our communities on recovery, ensuring we understand and respond to their needs.



**87**

residents, business owners & landowners did the survey



**Around 35%**

of our community are still recovering from the 2019/2020 bushfires



**67%**

did not have difficulty in acting on information during the fires



**Identifying fire trails – March 2021**

## Key impacts from bushfires

The impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires have been significant for our community. The community was most affected by the smoke during the bushfires, while a considerable amount of vegetation nearby was burnt, and business was reduced.

While people saw the natural environment as the most affected due to the bushfires, our community's mental health was raised as a significant issue. When the community was asked what the biggest impacts were from the bushfires, stress, heightened anxiety and PTSD were mentioned by many.

Our community received information mostly from the RFS and community support apps, family or friends and mobile phones. A significant number of people used Facebook (our local Channon Hookups Group) or the radio, particularly ABC radio.



**Mental health**  
is a significant issue  
for our community in  
recovery

## Future risks and preparedness for future disasters

In the survey, storm events and floods were perceived as the biggest threats to our community, followed by heatwave and drought.

In terms of the community's knowledge of managing each disaster, most of our community knew a lot about bushfire management. At the same time, there is varied knowledge about landslips, flood, drought and storm events.



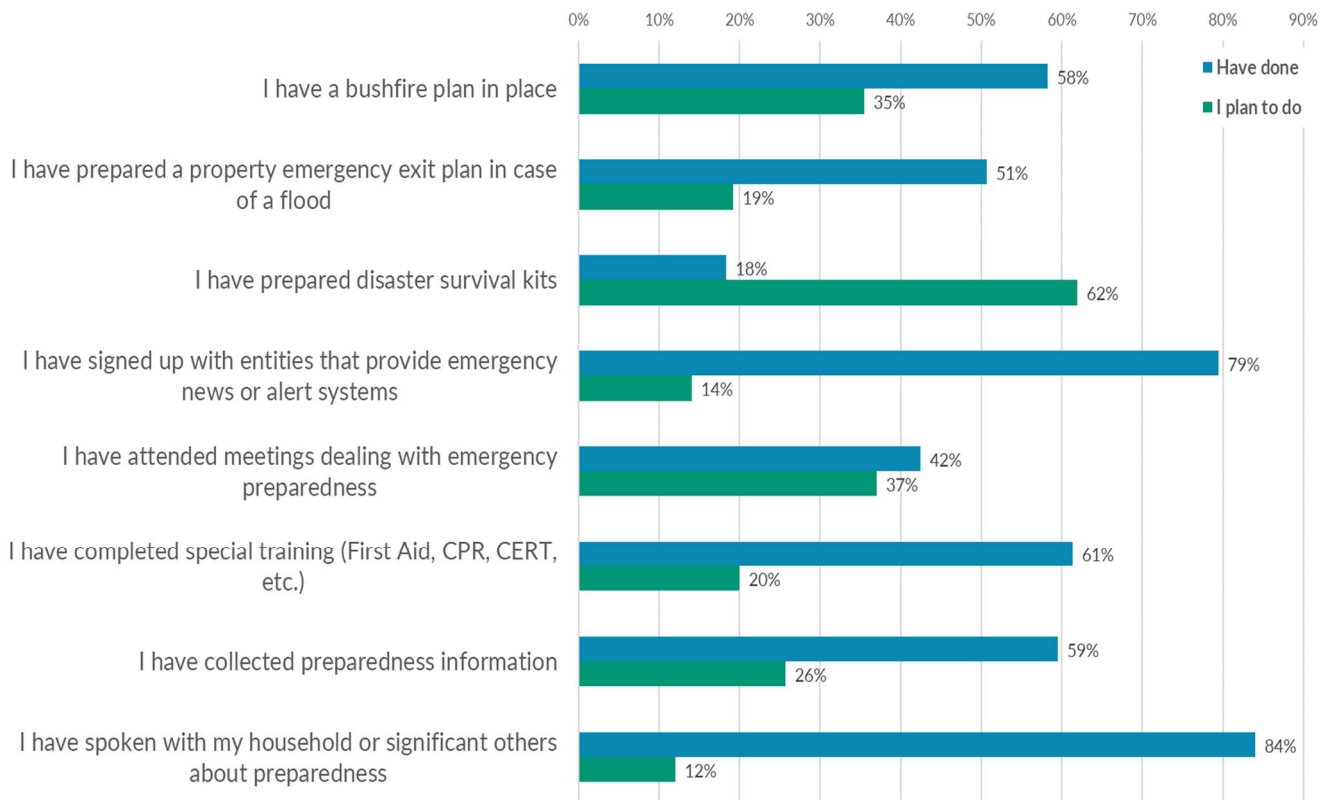
**41%**  
of our community knew where  
the local evacuation centres  
were located



**14%**  
did not know or were uncertain  
on how to contact emergency  
services

The type of help people wanted to continue recovering from recent disasters include a variety of ideas such as money, time, community support (such as The Channon Resilience Group), mental health support, help on each property to get ready (eg vegetation removal and hazard reduction), information on what to do in a disaster, list of local skills, awareness/ education, map fire trails and water / rain water tanks.

They stated for any future disasters, social media was the best form of communication. Other suggestions included a phone tree, emails, public billboard or meetings.



**Survey results: our disaster preparedness**

**Community workshops and plan launch**

Following the survey, the draft plan was prepared and a workshop was held with our community at The Channon hall in March 2021 to discuss and refine the actions we would implement together. The draft plan was circulated in our community for feedback and then finalised in April 2021.

## 6. Working in partnership

### 6.1 Working with others to deliver this Plan

As a community-led plan, The Channon Disaster Resilience Group will take the lead role in implementing this Plan. This will enable us to communicate our resilience and recovery needs to all levels of government from a community perspective.

We see the Government's role as enabling and supporting our community (for example, providing grant funding for actions in this Plan and facilitating support that can assist implementation). We also understand that State agencies and local government have a direct role and specific responsibilities for disaster management.

We will work with the Federal and State Government, including Resilience NSW, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services, and Lismore City Council where our actions must be coordinated or require joint responses.

Working together with business and other local organisations in our community will also be essential to this Plan's delivery.



Education event with State agencies



## 6.2 Stakeholder responsibilities

In accordance with our guiding principles of shared responsibility, all levels of government have a role to play in reducing our exposure and vulnerability to risk and to building resilience. A detailed description of the lead agencies that have a shared responsibility for emergency management is set out in Appendix A.

### State Government

- Coordinating and executing disaster management arrangements in the area
- Setting strategic direction and coordination of efforts to build resilience across all sectors of the community
- Enabling access to up-to-date and reliable risk information
- Ensuring all sectors of the community are aware of the options available for effective risk reduction

### Lismore City Council

- Leading local level disaster management arrangements
- Building community understanding and capability to manage risks
- Leading enhanced community resilience
- Reducing exposure to all hazards through responsible land use planning, development and construction
- Protect important environmental areas and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience.

### Other organisations in our community

The private sector, community organisations, service providers, government-owned corporations and non-government organisations are responsible for:

- understanding their exposure to disaster risks
- contributing to the social and economic recovery of our community
- considering the prevention and reduction of risk as part of their core activities.

The Channon and Surrounds communities and individuals are encouraged to:

- build healthy levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation
- understand their exposure to local risks
- carry out activities to plan and prepare for all hazards
- undertake the actions contained in this Plan.

# 7. What will we do? (Action Plan)

## 7.1 How this Action Plan works

This action plan will be easy-to-use and set out in a way that helps our community better understand the priorities, form clear outcomes and provide accountability.

We have developed the following actions to act primarily when issues fall within our direct control and where no other level of government is already providing a response. Some actions will need the prompting and lobbying of government in order to progress the needs of the community's resilience and recovery.

## 7.2 The emergency management model

The action plan refers to the relevant phase on the emergency management model used by agencies called prevention, preparation, recovery and response (PPRR).

**Prevention** - actions undertaken in advance to eliminate or reduce the level of the risk or severity of emergencies. Examples include cool-burning

**Preparation** - steps undertaken before an incident to ensure effective response and recovery. Examples include training, educating and sharing information. Keeping existing fires trails clear is another example.

**Response** - the assistance and intervention during or immediately after an emergency. Focus is on saving lives and protecting community assets.

**Recovery** - the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the recovery of the economic, natural, social and built environment. Examples include the development of recovery plans.

The cyclical nature of this model is important as it highlights that managing emergencies happens all the time, not just during 'the season' for bushfires for example. It also shows the way the phases blend into each other and overlap rather than being discrete categories.



## Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' knowledge

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived in this country for tens of thousands of years, witnessing droughts, floods, fires and sea levels rising and falling.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have shown resilience to adversity and the importance of family and community, connectedness, sharing, role models and leadership.

Acceptance and understanding of the knowledge and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will contribute to decreasing the impacts of emergencies and disasters.

*Adopted from Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands; emergency management counterparts other states and territories; land management; and Indigenous groups.*

**Funding:** As there are various types of assistance including personal hardship, essential services grants, restoration of public assets and assistance for small businesses and primary producers, we will identify the funding for the actions once detailed plans are made based on available opportunities.



## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
1.	<p><b>Appoint a dedicated resource to implement the Plan</b></p> <p>Obtain grant funds to appoint a person from the community to implement this Plan. The role would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the delivery of actions in this Plan</li> <li>• Find funding sources to implement actions in this Plan</li> <li>• Foster community connections and cohesiveness</li> <li>• Take lead role in establishing community communication channels</li> <li>• Administer and acquit any grants</li> <li>• Monitor and report on risks and progress back to The Channon Disaster Resilience Group to ensure delivery is being achieved</li> </ul> <p>Recruit the Channon and Surrounds – Disaster Resilience Plan delivery officer for up to 12 months on a part-time basis (3-4 hours per week).</p>	High priority Deadline: September 2021	Prevention, preparation, recovery and response	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group auspiced by Lismore City Council  Community lead:  Person to be appointed to co-ordinator role	Funding source to be identified
2.	<p><b>Create a local website focused on disasters</b></p> <p>Develop a website which provides the community with up-to-date information about disaster prevention, preparation, recovery and response, and also builds community connectedness and cohesiveness.</p>	High priority Deadline: August 2021	Prevention, preparation, recovery and response	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in partnership with Lismore City Council	To be identified.

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<p>The website will be available for our community to help communicate, inform and educate us before, during and after a disaster.</p> <p>The website will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about this Plan and the actions our community is taking to build our resilience</li> <li>• Information about disasters which impact our community (ie bushfire, flood, storms, landslip and heatwave) and how to mitigate risks and impacts of these disasters</li> <li>• Links to RFS, SES, and Lismore City Council disaster dashboard</li> <li>• Links to support the mental health and wellbeing of our community</li> <li>• A community directory of support services directly related to bushfire recovery assistance</li> <li>• Community protocols for animal management</li> <li>• A local directory of businesses to support the buy local initiative</li> <li>• Promotion of the new farmers market initiative</li> <li>• Local advertising to support ongoing maintenance costs</li> <li>• Information about living The Channon and being part of the community</li> </ul>			<p>Community lead: Terri Nicolson</p>	

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
3.	<p><b>Communicate on social media</b></p> <p>As a short-term response, communicate through the Hook Ups Facebook page the importance of the following (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a disaster survival kit</li> <li>• Signing up with entities that provide emergency news or alert systems</li> <li>• Speaking with the household or significant others about preparedness</li> <li>• Identifying if you have a “storz” fitting on your water tank</li> <li>• Understanding emergency risks during a flood based on current SES information and campaigns</li> <li>• Need for self-managed animal plans during an emergency</li> </ul> <p>Request through social media input from the community on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about any existing fire trails so that these can be mapped (action 14)</li> <li>• Information about any static water sources so that these can be mapped (action 15)</li> </ul>	<p>High priority: Deadline: Ongoing</p>	<p>Prevention, preparation, recovery and response</p>	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group  Community lead: Terri Nicolson</p>	<p>Nil</p>

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
4.	<p><b>Deliver workshops and information sheets</b></p> <p>Deliver a series of information sheets or community workshops at a new farmers market or other locations to inform landholders on methods to promote landscape health and recovery including flood mitigation. This could include lessons from the Watershed Initiative. Workshops to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration of rainforest and planting of fire-retardant species</li> <li>• Cool-season cultural burning (firesticks)</li> <li>• Wildlife habitat recovery (such as nesting boxes)</li> <li>• Replanting (in conjunction with a plant giveaway program)</li> <li>• Prevention and management of invasive flora and fauna</li> <li>• Nature based solutions</li> </ul> <p>Develop factsheets or videos to cover workshop themes.</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: September 2021</p>	Preparation / recovery	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group</p> <p>Community lead: Rachel Whiting &amp; Zoe Fehlberg</p> <p>Potential partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lismore City Council</li> <li>• Office of the Environment and Heritage</li> <li>• Landcare</li> </ul>	To be identified
5.	<p><b>Establish community communication channels</b></p> <p>Develop and maintain a connection tree which includes the address and preferred method of contact for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable community members</li> <li>• Isolated or hard-to-reach residents</li> </ul>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: September 2021</p>	Preparation / response/ recovery	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group</p> <p>Community lead: Person to be appointed to co-ordinator role</p>	Nil

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<p>Develop a communications protocol where committee members (or those that are nominated) are available before, during and after emergencies to provide local advice and improved community liaison, communication and coordination between agencies and the local community.</p> <p>Investigate a local text alert to contact our community members during a disaster.</p>				
6.	<p><b>Prepare a skills and inventory list</b></p> <p>Create a list of any skills and equipment which is available within our community to help during or after a disaster and categorise into disaster types.</p> <p>Skills could consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical / first aid training</li> <li>• Mental health first aid training</li> <li>• Arborist/tree pruning</li> <li>• Basic machinery operator</li> <li>• Heavy vehicle licence</li> <li>• Communication or media</li> <li>• Catering or cooking</li> <li>• Child care</li> </ul>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: Ongoing</p>	<p>Recovery / Preparation</p>	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group</p> <p>Community lead: Person to be appointed to co- ordinator role</p>	<p>Nil</p>



## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<p>A tool and equipment list, including ownership, could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree pruning equipment such as chain saw</li> <li>• PA system / Bull horn or portable public address communication device</li> <li>• Equipment needed to boil large volumes of water or cook large volumes of food (adequate supply of large pots, commercial cooking kettles, etc.)</li> <li>• Logistics, equipment and containers available to transport food or water during an evacuation</li> <li>• Portable chairs and tables for evacuation relocation/staging</li> <li>• Various power tools (drill, saws, leaf blower etc.)</li> <li>• Farm equipment</li> <li>• Traffic control equipment</li> <li>• Manual siphon pumps</li> <li>• Dust/filter-type masks</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles, safety glasses, etc.)</li> <li>• Sandbags / portable cots</li> </ul>				

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
7.	<p><b>Lobby for road upgrades</b></p> <p>Form a lobby group to ensure regular communication with all levels of government about local roads.</p> <p>Lobby all levels of government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Wallace Road for safe access and evacuation during all disaster events (first, identify priority sections of Wallace Road that need upgrading)</li> <li>• Classify upper Wallace Road as a strategic fire trail</li> <li>• Classify Cox Road / Rose Road connector as a strategic fire trail</li> </ul> <p>Put together a submission / petition to lobby for upgrades and changes based on local knowledge and information.</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: October 2021</p>	Recovery / Preparation	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group</p> <p>Community lead: Wallace Road residents - Dave, Ivy, Peta, Zoe</p> <p>Community Lead: Rose Road - Wal Davies</p>	Potential funding: Federal government
8.	<p><b>Create a Community Safer Place</b></p> <p>Develop a "Community Safer Place" program which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirming where the "Community Safer Place" is located within our community. The place could be an open space or buildings where people may gather, as a last resort, to seek shelter from a bushfire or flood event (eg: The Channon Hall).</li> <li>• Identifying improvements to the "Community Safer Place" as a community hub to ensure these facilities support</li> </ul>	<p>Low priority</p> <p>Deadline: June 2021</p>	Response	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in partnership with The Channon Hall Committee, Safe Places Working Group and the CARE Group</p>	To be identified

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<p>everyday community gatherings as well as shelter in the case of an emergency. For the Hall, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installing solar for power outages</li> <li>• Installing a gas stove for cooking</li> <li>• Installing showers</li> <li>• Creating a place for storage of any community owned equipment</li> <li>• Working with The Channon Hall Committee to carry out a risk assessment of the facilities (eg: fire risk) and to obtain funding for identified improvements</li> <li>• Undertaking a community healing event at the Hall or The Channon markets to bring the independent communities and families together and provide direct support for psychological services for community-wide initiatives (eg: listening / heart circle). Invite Red Cross or other relevant mental health support services to attend to support the community's mental health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	October / December 2021		Community lead: Rachel Whiting, Dave & Mish	
9.	<p><b>Promote buy local initiatives</b></p> <p>Promote buy local initiatives to drive our local economy, increase our economic diversity, maintain local goods and services available and enhance resilience through periods of potential isolation. This includes:</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: October 2021</p>	Resilience	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group	To be identified

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>marketing The Channon markets</li> <li>developing a farmer's market for The Channon</li> <li>creating a directory of local businesses and promoting on the new website and Hook Ups Facebook page</li> <li>promoting local food swap events such as Djaning</li> <li>working in partnership with existing businesses such as the Tavern, General Store and cafe</li> </ul>			Community lead (farmers markets): Rachel Whiting & Zoe Fehlberg Community lead (directory): Terri Nicholson	
10.	<p><b>Encourage youth involvement</b></p> <p>Encourage youth involvement in implementation of this plan by informal mentoring opportunities.</p> <p>Develop a youth forum for our community that aims to revitalise youth engagement in volunteering across a whole range of activities including land care, emergency services, SES, RFS and community projects.</p>	Low priority Deadline: Ongoing July 2021	Resilience	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in partnership with Youth Group Community lead: Rachel Whiting	To be identified
11.	<p><b>Promote awareness about animal management</b></p> <p>Encourage and facilitate community awareness about the need for self-managed animal plans during an emergency.</p> <p>Develop community protocols about animal management with experienced farmers in the community including:</p>	Low priority Deadline: June 2022	Resilience	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with farmers, animal	To be identified

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying triggers for actively moving animals, animal rescue and shelter during an emergency</li> <li>• securing community members assistance with animal handling skills</li> <li>• identifying who has transport to move animals</li> </ul>			owners, horse owners  Community lead: Caroline & Kirsty Joy, Ani  Potential partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pony Club</li> <li>• Department of Primary Industries</li> <li>• Blaze Aid</li> <li>• World Wildlife Fund</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Implement nature based solution projects</b></p> <p>Investigate nature based solutions as a way to prevent and mitigate the risk of future natural disasters (eg: by supporting the Watershed Initiative)</p> <p>Create and implement local nature based solution projects that enhance local vegetation and reduce our risk to future natural disasters</p>	Medium priority  Deadline: April 2022	Preparation/ Prevention	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group  Community lead: Ivy Young  Potential partners: Landcare	To be identified

## ALL DISASTERS

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
13.	<p><b>Lobby for action on climate change</b></p> <p>Form a lobby group to ensure regular communication with all levels of government about need to take action on climate change to reduce the risk of future natural disasters.</p>	<p>Low priority</p> <p>Deadline: December 2022</p>	<p>Prevention</p>	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group</p> <p>Community lead: Ivy Young</p>	<p>Nil</p>

## BUSHFIRES

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
14.	<p><b>Create a fire trail map</b></p> <p>Develop a fire trail map of the local area to include existing and needed fire trails. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking our intentional communities and property owners to provide any existing maps to the local RFS</li> <li>• Identifying the difference between walkable and drivable tracks</li> <li>• Identifying the strategic fire trails</li> <li>• Undertaking a physical audit of the trails where possible to check the conditions</li> <li>• Confirming how the maps will be produced (ie digital or paper)</li> <li>• Respecting the privacy of any individuals who do not wish to share or disclose information</li> </ul> <p>Once the map has been produced, provide to the local and district RFS.</p>	<p>High priority</p> <p>Deadline: August 2021</p>	Preparation	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with the Fire Group</p> <p>Community lead: Michael Murphy &amp; John Hutchinson</p> <p>Potential partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lismore City Council</li> <li>• Local RFS brigade</li> </ul>	To be identified
15.	<p><b>Create an emergency water supply map</b></p> <p>Map existing still water access points (such as tanks and dams) and identify any gaps. This map will be completed with the fire trail map.</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: August 2021</p>	Recovery	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with the Fire Group</p>	Lismore City Council (water supply points)

## BUSHFIRES

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
				Community lead: Michael Murphy & John Hutchinson  Potential partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lismore City Council</li> <li>Local RFS brigade</li> </ul>	
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>Facilitate the community to “tank up”</b></p> <p>Share information with the community about eligibility for water tank rebates, water tank replacement schemes and support community through a communal tank drive.</p> <p>Identify properties with gaps or a need to replace existing tanks include public spaces such as the school, preschool and oval.</p> <p>Work with the RFS about the current agency water tank scheme.</p> <p>Apply to grants schemes to provide more water tanks in the community.</p> <p>Establish water access points in remote locations which can be accessible for emergency water supply (<i>Note: Council has funds do to this</i>)</p>	Medium priority Deadline: Ongoing	Recovery / Preparation	The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with individuals / households  Community lead: To be identified Potential partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFS</li> </ul>	To be identified



## BUSHFIRES

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
17.	<p><b>Hold a community information day on bushfire preparation and recovery</b></p> <p>Hold a community information stall with the RFS at The Channon markets to share information about preparing for bushfires on individual properties (Bushfire Plan). Invite feedback on the fire trail / static water supply maps (actions 14 and 15)</p> <p>Invite other agencies to attend The Channon markets including SES, Red Cross and Resilience NSW to share information about disaster management.</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: September 2021</p> <p>July / August 2021</p>	Preparation	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with The Channon Markets and The Channon RFS brigade</p> <p>Community Lead: John Hutchison &amp; Allison</p>	Nil
18.	<p><b>Carry out community bushfire exercises</b></p> <p>Identify the type of community bushfire exercise our community wishes to carry out. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands on demonstration of “cool burning” or “cultural burning” techniques</li> <li>• Assistance from RFS on burning off on individual properties</li> <li>• Communal day to clear fire trails</li> <li>• Community wide practice drills</li> <li>• Mock evacuation events to “Community Safe Place” (action 8)</li> </ul> <p>Carry out agreed community bushfire exercises to improve understanding of local bushfire risk, including different scenarios.</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: Ongoing</p>	Preparation	<p>The Channon Disaster Resilience Group in collaboration with The Channon RFS brigade</p> <p>Community Lead: John Hutchison</p>	To be identified

## BUSHFIRES

No.	Action	Priority / Timeline	Phase	Person / Organisation Responsible	Funding and Grant Source
19.	<p><b>Upgrade the RFS shed</b></p> <p>Upgrade The Channon RFS brigade shed as it plays a vital role in the immediate response to bushfire threats and the resilience of our community. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiating to secure additional land</li> <li>• Improving the facilities to include meeting rooms and showers</li> </ul>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Deadline: December 2021</p>	<p>Recovery / Preparation</p>	<p>Locale RFS brigade</p> <p>Community Lead: John Hutchison</p>	<p>To be identified</p>

## **Appendix A Agencies and their roles in Emergency Management**

**The following information has been adapted from the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (December 2018) and the NSW Recovery Plan (2016)**

Agency/ Organisation/Committee	Role
Resilience NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee and coordinate emergency management policy, service delivery and all aspects of disaster recovery at a state, national and international level.</li> </ul>
Fire and Rescue NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All practical measures to prevent <b>fires</b> and protect life and property from fire or hazardous material incidents</li> <li>Training and equipping residents within FRNSW Fire Districts</li> </ul>
NSW Rural Fire Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible during a <b>fire</b> (within rural fire district)</li> <li>Management of hazard reduction and mitigation programs</li> <li>Firefighting response to fires within Rural Fire Districts</li> </ul>
State Emergency Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the response to actual or imminent threats of <b>flood, storm or tsunami</b> so as to protect persons from danger to their safety and health and to protect property from damage in respect of these hazards</li> </ul>
NSW Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combat agency for <b>Search and Rescue</b> and coordination in circumstances where no other agency has legislated responsibility during emergencies.</li> </ul>
Department of Primary Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible during <b>animal, plant disease, rodent or insect plague</b></li> </ul>
Ambulance Service of NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a <b>pre-hospital emergency incident</b> management capability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any event</li> </ul>
NSW Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible during a <b>pandemic</b> and health support during an emergency.</li> </ul>
Local Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Council plays a key role in <b>managing</b> local recovery, providing <b>services</b> and assistance to the community and advice to State Government.</li> </ul>
NSW Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulates or aids in regulating scheduled activities that may cause <b>significant environmental impact</b>, dangerous goods transport, pesticide use, hazardous waste, contaminated land and radiation control.</li> </ul>
Welfare Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The functional area is responsible for coordinating the provision of <b>welfare services</b> to disaster affected people</li> </ul>
Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is responsible for coordinating formal recovery processes including recovery operations.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix B – Community Organisations**

## Community organisations and contacts

Name of organisation	Contact details
<b>Community Groups and Associations</b>	
Tunable Creek Landcare	TBC
The Channon Resilience Group	TBC
Tunable Creek Hall Trust	TBC
The Channon Hall Trust	TBC
The Channon Public School and P&C Association	TBC
Tunable Creek Public School and P&C Association	TBC
Koonorigan Hall Trust	TBC
The Channon Tennis Club	TBC
The Channon Folk Club	TBC
The Channon Petite Farmer Market	TBC
The Channon Rural Fire Brigade	Standing Street, The Channon (02) 6663 0000
The Channon Dunoon Pony Club	Ph: 0413 984 642 Email: elisa@ncfs.com.au www.channondunoonponyclub.org
The Channon Craft Market Inc. (the commons)	The Channon Craft Market Inc. C/O Post Office The Channon NSW 2480 02 6688 6433 www.thechannonmarket.org.au
Terania Learning Centre – NCO	TBC
The Channon Children's Centre Inc	TBC
Permaculture Research Institute	1158 Pinchin Road The Channon, NSW, Australia 2480 Ph: 0416 119 965 Email: info@permaculture.org.au http://www.permaculturenews.org
Djaning Produce Swap and Meeting Place	TBC
Village landowners for Creek rehabilitation	TBC

## Additional community activities/classes

After School Care at The Channon Public School

React Circus

Yoga Classes

Mindfulness Classes

Music Classes

Ultimate Frisbee Weekly Games at oval

Touch Football Weekly Games at oval

Tennis

Frisbee Golf Monthly at oval

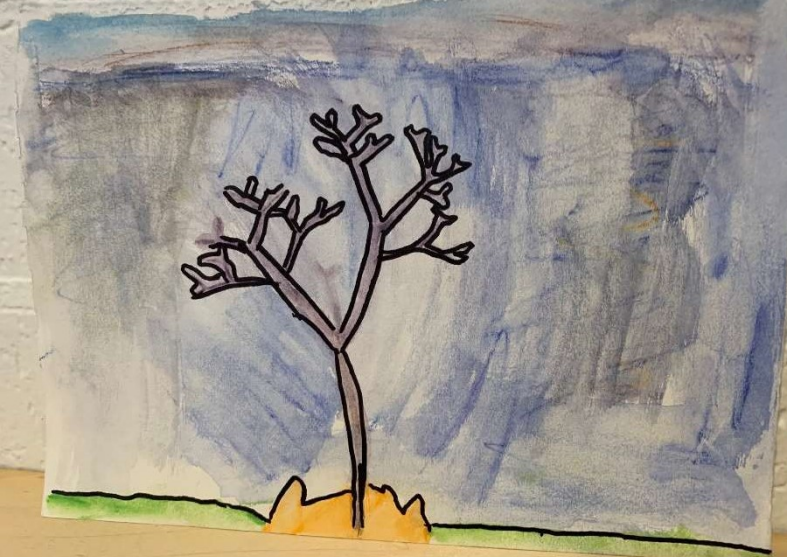
Community Working Bees at The Common

Karate classes

Singing classes

Weekly Community Choir

Monthly Folk Club at The Tavern



# The Channon & Surrounds Disaster Resilience Plan

April 2021