

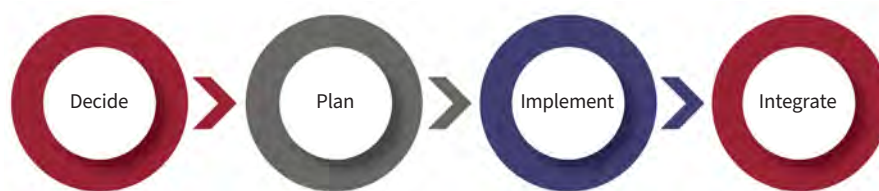
PLANNED RELOCATION – PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

This report looks at the enablers and barriers of planned relocation in Australia for residential houses and explores how and when this is feasible for Australian communities to protect them from the impacts of natural hazards.

The report considers the different stages of planned relocation. It considers a number of key elements including, developing a scheme, the role of the community in its success, and the delivery, including policy, management and funding.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNED RELOCATION

A FRAMEWORK FOR THE STAGES OF PLANNED RELOCATION



COMMUNITY

- Community involvement throughout the Planned Relocation process, is key for the successful implementation. However, community issues and needs can be highly complex, and location specific.
- Decision to leave is not always voluntary and lots of social impacts of this decision.
- Social infrastructure and support are a necessity for successful relocation schemes.

DELIVERY

- **In either Community Relocation* or Buy-Back Schemes**, the ability to move quickly after a natural hazard event requires the appropriate government infrastructure, policies, and frameworks to be in place.**
- Many Local Governments do not have the capacity, scale or skill sets to manage and implement a Planned Relocation Scheme independently.
- Most policy approaches to planned relocation are “voluntary” or opt-in usually with a timeframe, but voluntariness is on a scale, people that opt in rarely have other choices.
- A recent natural disaster or history of natural disasters is often the catalyst for a community considering planned relocation.
- Preparing subdivisions ahead of disaster and allocating low risk land ready to be built enables timely success of a planned relocation scheme.

* **Community Relocation** looks not only at removing the people from the area at risk, but also at the subsequent resettlement of those people in the alternative location.

****A Buy Back scheme** is one where assistance is provided in the form of an agency purchasing a property that is at risk. However, no support is provided for the relocation of the individual or community to an alternative location



ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF PLANNED RELOCATION

The feasibility assessment details criteria decision makers can use to make planned relocation decisions.

Including:

- cost and economic benefits
- risk to life
- affordability (insurance or own repairs).

THE FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT IS APPLIED TO FOUR REAL LIFE SETTINGS WITH SIMILAR RIVERINE FLOODPLAINS THIS SHOWS:

1. The economic feasibility of a scheme is dependant on the level of risk exposure to the area and the scale of the scheme.
2. In areas that are susceptible to climate change, then the economic feasibility will likely improve over time.
3. In all locations, the risk to life metrics were well above typical acceptable thresholds
4. Affordability is an important consideration. The annual expected costs associated with flooding in each community ranged from 10% to 50% of median household income. The ability for a community to recover following a flood would be challenging at the upper end of this range.

PLANNED RELOCATION REPORT



THE AIM OF THIS REPORT IS TO ASSIST DECISION MAKERS ENGAGE IN INFORMED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PLANNED RELOCATION

There are 7 recommendations for consideration

1. Develop National guidance on planned relocation.
2. Prioritise and fund integration support for relocated residents.
3. Planned relocation should be coordinated by State and Territory Government agencies, while ensuring Local Government remains a key stakeholder.
4. Responsible agencies should proactively identify high-risk locations and develop community adaptation plans before a natural hazard event occurs.
5. Federal and State Governments should formalise funding arrangements.
6. Establish legislative frameworks for accelerated approvals for planned relocation.
7. Review the outcomes of large-scale implementations of planned relocation (e.g. NSW and Queensland Resilient Homes Funds) to inform development and refinement of National Guidance and frameworks.

