

Using transformative scenarios in a climate-challenged world



RESEARCH TEAM

Liza Gelt, Collaborative Consulting Co
Rosie Tran, Collaborative Consulting Co
Gill Fletcher, Collaborative Consulting Co
Dr Michael Rumsewicz, Collaborative Consulting Co
Deb Martindale, Independent advisor, Sentient Co
Project duration: 12 months

Background

The Transformative Scenarios in a Climate-challenged World resources were developed with and for the emergency management sector as a tactical research project under the former Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (the CRC).

These resources are available [here](#). The resources are intended to support organisational leaders to take the four plausible future scenarios, consider the future risks of hazards, apply probable climate change, and then use these scenarios to stress-test their organisation's existing strategies and plans.

This allows leaders to explore how well their businesses will deliver services in 2035 under each of the plausible futures, and to test the likely effectiveness of adaptation strategies.

However, broader feedback has indicated a range of barriers impacting further end-user agency application of the current resources. EM partners have expressed the need for a set of more user-friendly, interactive resources that they can promote and apply in their own organisations.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

AFAC Climate Change Group
Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)
Queensland Fire Department (QFD)
South Australia State Emergency Service (SA SES)
Country Fire Authority, Victoria (CFA)
Department of Fire and Emergency Services, WA (DFES)
Natural Hazards Research Australia (the Centre)

Project description

This project aims to further develop the translation and utilisation of the Transformative Scenarios in a Climate-Challenged World resources. This project will develop, test and evaluate professional development modules and user-friendly train-the-trainer applications.

A highly collaborative approach for this project will ensure that the transformative scenarios and supporting materials realise their intended benefits with sector partner agencies.

This project will involve engaging with emergency management and other invited sector partners to understand the barriers and opportunities agencies have experienced in applying existing resources and determine suitable application pathways, including appropriate design and development of training resources and materials.

Additionally, this project will also work closely with emergency management and other sector partners to co-design a communications and engagement plan to promote and socialise the resources.



Intended outcomes

The outcomes of this project will be a more dynamic, informed, and prepared emergency management sector, capable of responding to the unpredictable events that occur in a climate-impacted world with confidence and strategic foresight.

Unlike traditional scenario planning, which primarily prepares organisations to adapt to various possible futures, transformative scenario planning empowers stakeholders to proactively shape these futures.

Building on the foundation of previously developed transformative scenarios by Reos Partners and RMIT University, this project will further enhance the emergency management and other sector's capacity to navigate the complexities of a climate-challenged world.

By integrating these established scenarios with practical toolkits and online guides, we aim support emergency management and other sector teams to be proactively engaged in creating safer, more resilient communities in the face of climate change.

A notable application of the original resources was by Queensland Fire Department (QFD), who utilised them to enhance their 2030 strategy. The outcomes demonstrated the scenarios' efficacy in engaging leaders and decision-makers, encouraging them to consider novel, less comfortable signals of change and prepare for future uncertainties.

Further information

For full project details head to: <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/research/research-projects/community-led-recovery-evidence-dimensions-and-supports-community>

Or contact nicola.moore@naturalhazards.com.au

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Translation and implementation potential

This project directly aims to translate and implement the resources developed from the Centre's previous project, Transformative Scenarios in a Climate-challenged World.

This project seeks emergency management and other sector professionals to engage with these transformative scenarios in a hands-on manner, so that they will be prepared to adapt to future challenges and will also be equipped to actively shape these futures. Thereby, bridging the gap between the theoretical scenarios and their practical application.

This project will focus on translating high-level scenarios into tangible, actionable techniques that emergency management and other sector practitioners can readily apply.