Floods and Storms and the Evolution of Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia
Stroms and floods, and the evolution of disaster risk reduction in Australia

Financial Impact

- Storms and flooding account for over half of insurance losses in Australia. This increases to almost 75% when hail is included.
Flood Impact
Case Study – Lockyer Valley, 2011

- The Lockyer Valley,
  - Toowoomba, Grantham, Ipswich and Brisbane was impacted by severe flash flooding
- Severe flash flooding cost A$6.64 billion
- 35 deaths, 20,000 people were made homeless
- Grantham was the most severely impacted:
  - 12 deaths in a town of approximately 300 residents
  - Floodwater 8 metres deep impacted in 30 minutes
Storm Impact

Case Study – South Australia storms, 28 September 2016

- Multiple supercell thunderstorms produced at least seven tornadoes, very large hailstones and localised intense rainfall
- 800,000 lightning strikes recorded in 24 hours
- 22 power relay towers were destroyed by storm activity
- The entire state of South Australia containing 1.677 million people was left without power
Sendai Framework

- An opportunity to improve Australia’s disaster risk reduction approach
- Well-grounded guiding principles
- Importance of measuring progress
Current Progress

Implementing the Sendai Framework within Australia

• Benefits:
  – Improved preparedness, more effective response, rehabilitation and reconstruction and more effective post-disaster recovery and reconstruction

• Challenges:
  – Consistency and availability of data across Australia’s states and territories, privacy concerns, access to private sector information, and skewed data results due to catastrophic events.

Conclusion

• Recognise the impacts to the “new normal”
• Commitment to implementation of the Sendai Framework and the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
• Continue to develop Australia’s approaches to promoting and enabling resilience
• Support disaster resilience building in the Indo-Pacific
Thank you

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3/08/2018