



SOUTHERN NSW
Innovation Hub

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,
LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA





EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

This dashboard visualises indicators of resilience change in NSW communities.

Resilience is the capacity of individuals and communities to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and adapt to challenges (including natural hazard events) in ways that support healthy levels of wellbeing over the long-term. For each indicator, this dashboard helps you understand both *current levels* of resilience and *change* in resilience over time.

Indicator data in this dashboard is based on a combination of sources. Sources are attributed under each indicator description. Please also refer to the **About** section.

 NSW VIEW

 LGA VIEW

 **DOWNLOAD THE DATASET**

<https://communityresilienceinsights.org.au/>



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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,
LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

PROJECT TEAM



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA



Australian
National
University



Charles Sturt
University



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



SGS
Economics
& Planning

RESILIENCE

The capacity of individuals and communities to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and adapt to challenges in ways that support **healthy levels of wellbeing** over the long-term.

Dynamic and can change (slowly or rapidly) in response to actions that (i) seek to build resilience, and (ii) events that place high demand on resilience resources.



THE STORY BEHIND THIS PROJECT

A previous project with NCOSS, funded by the NSW Mental Health Commission, examined 'Community resilience, wellbeing and recovery'

Thousands of local community groups are central to disaster recovery. They are there before, during, and well after a disaster – well before the professional disaster recovery services arrive, and well after they have left. They are often accidental disaster recovery organisations.

We asked local community organisations what they needed to support their work in disaster recovery to support (i) their own resilience and ability to continue this work and (ii) the resilience and wellbeing of their communities

Planning and preparing for community-led disaster recovery: A guide for local organisations

A resource from the Community resilience, wellbeing and recovery project

Planning and preparing for community-led disaster recovery

Workbook for community-based organisations

Mental Health Commission of New South Wales




Planning and preparing for community-led disaster recovery

A guide for those seeking to enable and support local organisations in disaster recovery

Mental Health Commission of New South Wales



NEEDS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- Support capacity to deliver services into their community
- 
- Recognition of the important role they play
 - Better & longer-term funding to service needs that emerge over a long period
 - Ability to compete for funding with larger organisations
 - Support for staff and volunteers
 - Inter-organisational networks that collaborate to reduce duplication
 - Partnership with large specialist organisations

- 
- **Ability to conduct ongoing assessment of needs – not just a one-off assessment**
 - **Better evidence base to support bids for funding**



I can't stress that enough, that we are always in recovery.

So if you consider what occurred, you know, last year and the tail end of 19-20 and throughout that, we are now consistently in recovery. So it's really interesting when we talk about that, because the very word indicates that there's a beginning and an end. We never end, and that level of trigger and trauma and the need for preparedness and planning is a cultural norm. I don't think that can be stressed enough." (Blue Mountains 2)



[Service provider] were still providing a service at Tathra when Black Summer happened. ... Because the whole idea is that after 18 months there's probably maybe somewhere between 5 and 20% of the people who are impacted who will need ongoing support." (Bega Valley 3)

'RESILIENCE' IS NOT A STOCK, IT IS A DYNAMIC AND CHANGING PROCESS THAT DEPENDS ON RESILIENCE RESOURCES



EARLY INSIGHTS PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Develop tools to enable improved monitoring of resilience levels of local communities (LGA scale)

Enable more rapid identification of changes in resilience in communities impacted by natural hazards

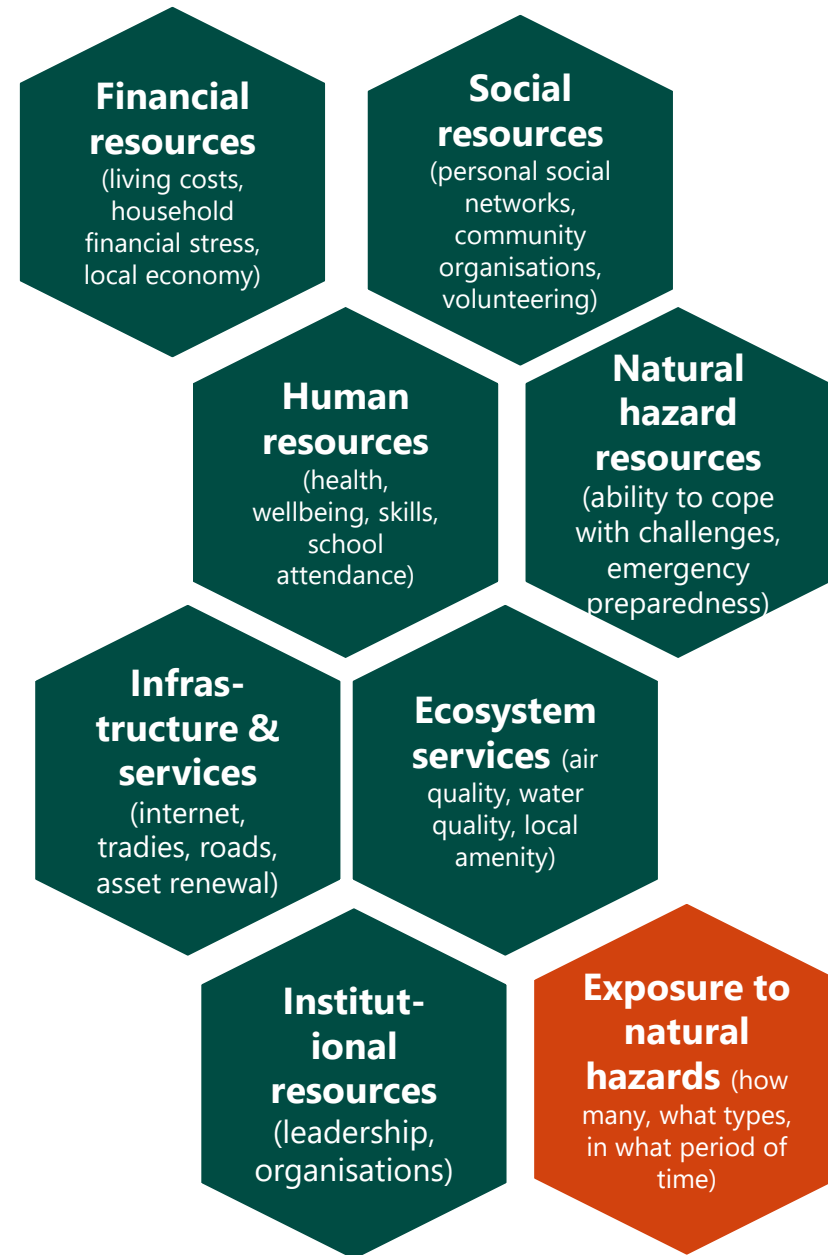
“Two years ago I would have said we were a resilient community – but after a bushfire, two storms and a flood, plus the cost of living crisis, a lot has changed. We have a lot of people who’ve dealt with things up to now, but are now going backwards. They can’t cope with another disaster. But the most recent data for our community is from three years ago and says we’re doing fine – so it’s hard to prove that we need extra investment here.”

– Composite quote representing common issues identified by people working for organisations that support communities in crisis

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

It's rare for a community to have high (or low) levels of access to every type of resilience resource. Most communities have both resilience **strengths** and areas of **challenge**.

Communities told us they preferred a tool that let them explore areas of strength and challenge across different types of resilience resources.

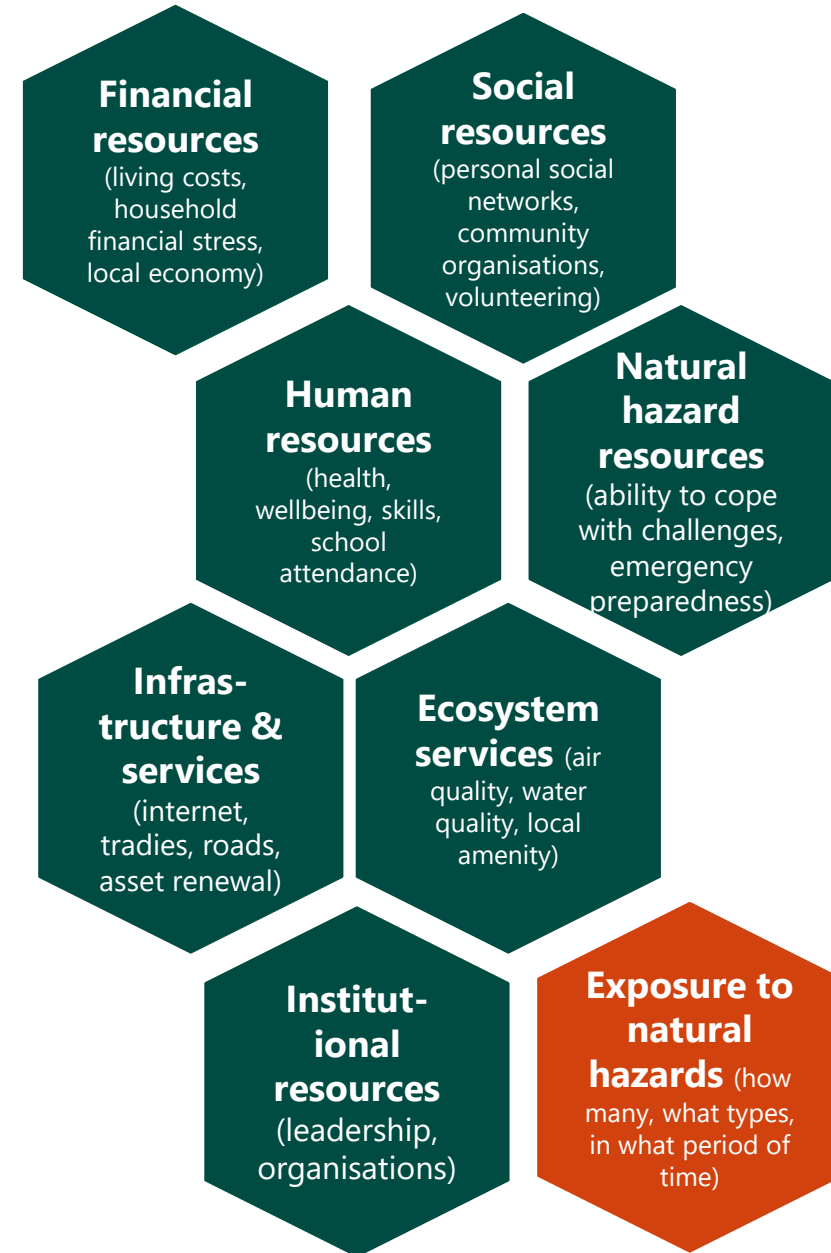


UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

For each type of resource, we:

- Identified potential indicators
- Investigated data availability for each indicator
 - Criteria: available at LGA scale, over time, measured at least once a year
- Identified pilot indicators and build them into a dashboard
- Identified additional indicators with potential to be added in future
- Designed & tested survey questions to collect data where no existing data sources measure the indicator

Examples of data sources: administrative data on school enrolments; rental market data; survey data





EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

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Natural hazard resources

Resilience domain

'Natural hazard' resources are resources that specifically help reduce the impacts of natural hazards and/or help support rebuilding and recovery after a natural hazard events. These include investing in preparation for natural hazard events, such as in having a plan for how to protect key community assets or a person's home, a plan for evacuation and protecting important documents and possessions.

Emergency preparedness – household discussions +

Community capacity to cope with challenges -

WHAT IS THIS INDICATOR?

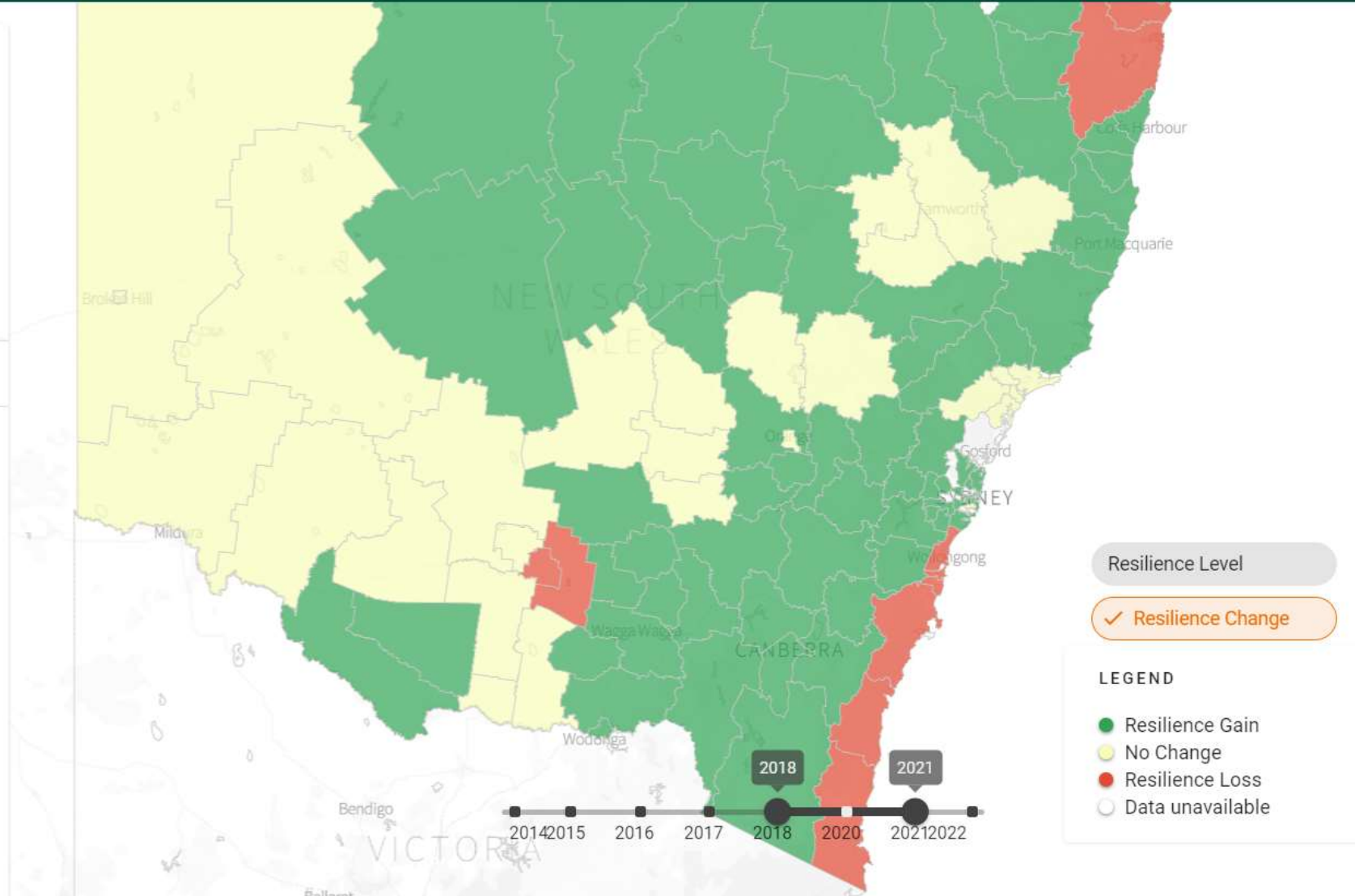
This indicator is a simple measure of confidence in the community's capacity to cope with challenges.

HOW IS THE INDICATOR MEASURED?

Community capacity to cope with challenges is measured in a survey item that asks participants to rate how much they agree or disagree with the statement "This community copes pretty well when faced with challenges" on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree).

WHAT DOES THIS INDICATOR TELL US ABOUT

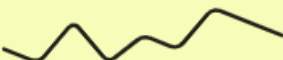
RESILIENCE?





! EXPOSURE TO NATURAL HAZARDS

This dashboard focuses on providing data on resilience resources. It is helpful to also identify the extent to which different communities have experienced natural hazards that can place demand on the resilience resources of the individual, people and organisations in those communities. Indicators of exposure do not measure resilience levels, but give an indicator of the level of pressure/demand placed on resilience levels.

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Activation history of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	2 times DFRA was activated	 1 (2014) → 2 (2022)

WHAT IS THIS INDICATOR?

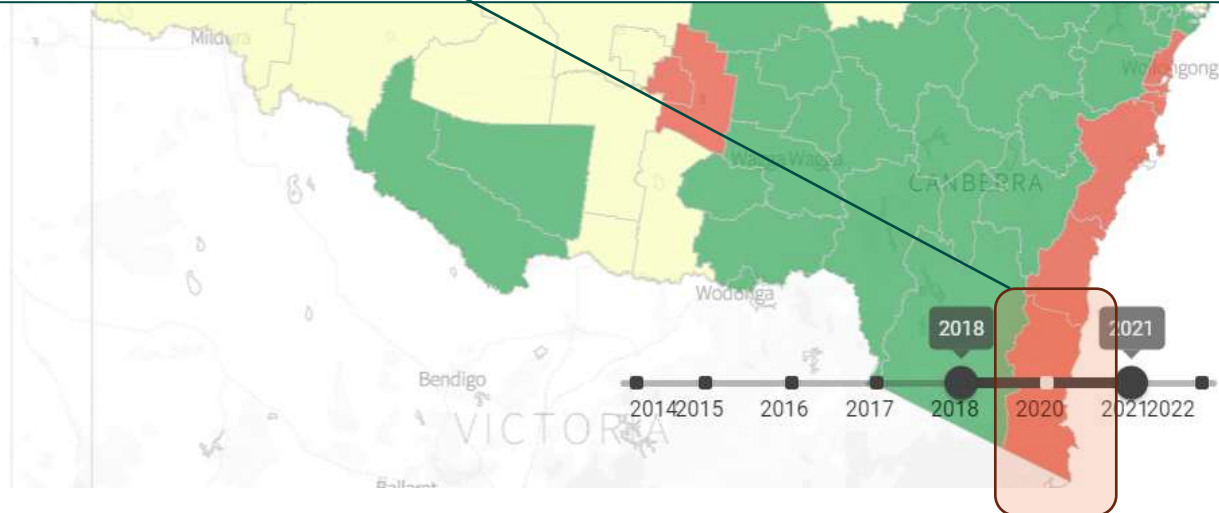
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WHAT DOES THIS INDICATOR TELL US ABOUT

RESILIENCE?



Resilience Level

✓ Resilience Change

LEGEND

- Resilience Gain
- No Change
- Resilience Loss
- Data unavailable

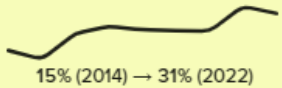
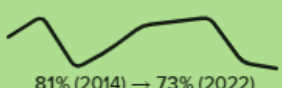
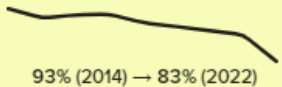
Human resources

In many communities across NSW, the last few years have tested human resources, with increases in psychological distress in many communities. In Bega Valley, there are slightly higher than average rates of psychological distress and poorer wellbeing. School attendance has declined sharply since the pandemic, similar to communities across NSW (and Australia). This is a concern for future resilience, as low school attendance in the long term is associated with poor educational outcomes. Potentially avoidable deaths occur at a similar rate to the NSW average.



↑ HUMAN RESOURCES

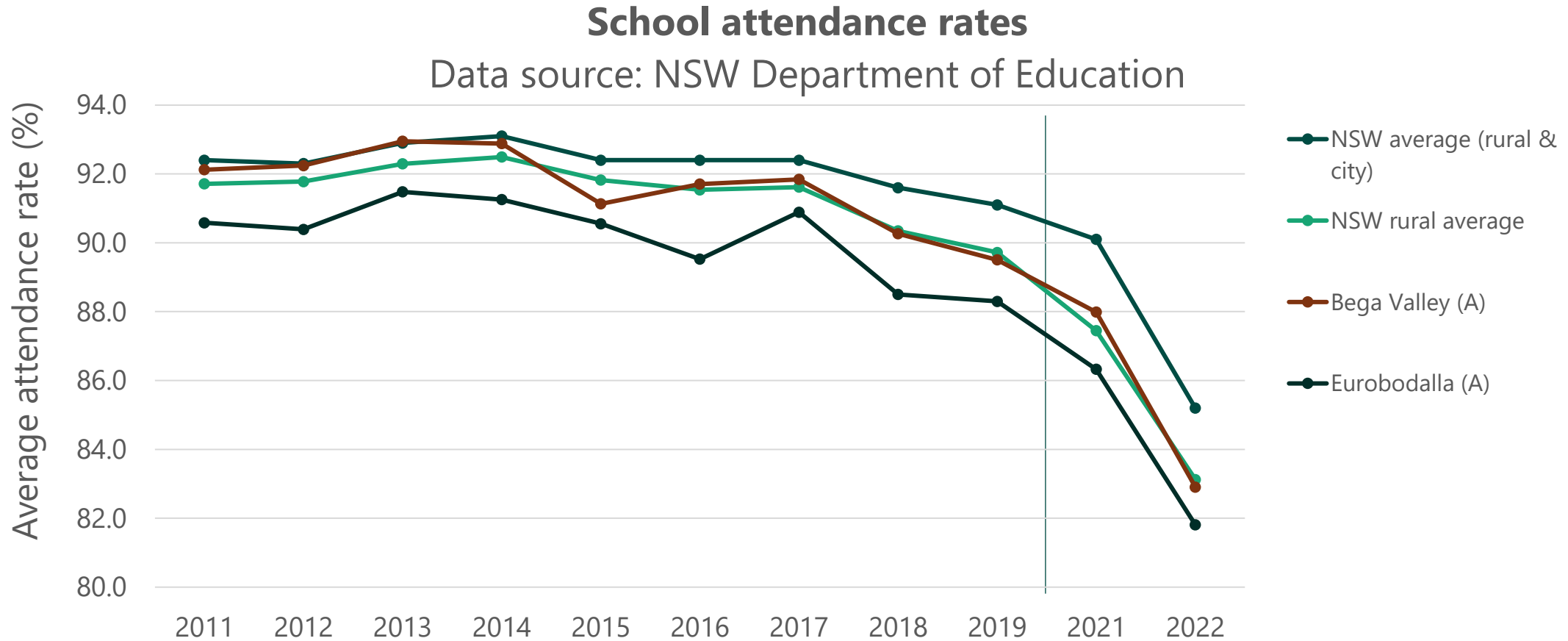
Human resources, also termed 'personal resilience', are internal to an individual person. A person's health and wellbeing, their overall skills and education level, along with psychological attributes such as their sense of optimism about the future and confidence in ability to recover from challenge are important indicators of personal resilience.

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Psychological distress (K6)	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	31% report high or moderate levels of psychological distress	 15% (2014) → 31% (2022)
Personal wellbeing (Personal wellbeing index)	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	73% have healthy levels of personal wellbeing	 81% (2014) → 73% (2022)
Psychological resilience (Brief resilience scale)		Data unavailable	Data unavailable
School attendance rates	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	83% is the school attendance rate	 93% (2014) → 83% (2022)

HUMAN RESILIENCE EXAMPLE

INDICATOR: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The pandemic created a step-change in attendance rates – care is needed in interpreting this indicator









Social resources

An area of relative resilience strength in Bega Valley is engagement in volunteering, with much higher participation in volunteering than average (despite some decline). However, attendance at community activities remains lower than desirable, and many find it difficult to access practical support from friends and family. This type of informal social interaction is critical to resilience, as it's often how we share ideas and knowledge, as well as make social connections we can reach out to for advice and help before and during times of challenge.

Social resources
(personal social networks, community organisations, volunteering)

👤 SOCIAL RESOURCES



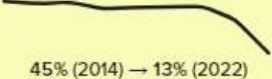

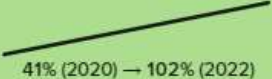


Social resources – typically referred to as 'social capital' – are critical to successful natural hazard preparation, response and recovery. Social resources are the networks of social relationships people have that they use to share knowledge and ideas, to share information, and to give and receive practical, emotional and financial support.

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Access to practical support from friends / family	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	70% report moderate to high levels of access to support	 81% (2017) → 70% (2022)
Access to emotional support from friends / family	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	74% report moderate to high levels of access to support	 84% (2017) → 74% (2022)
Access to financial support from friends / family	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	64% report moderate to high levels of access to support	 74% (2017) → 64% (2022)
Spending time with family and friends index	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	53% report moderate to high levels of social connection with family and friends	 76% (2015) → 53% (2022)
Community engagement - community events	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	28% regularly engage in community events	 61% (2015) → 28% (2022)
Volunteering	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	67% of adults engage in some volunteering in a typical year	 81% (2015) → 67% (2022)

Infrastructure & services resources

Like many rural areas, poor access to infrastructure and services creates resilience challenges in Bega Valley. Access to tradespeople is much lower than the already low NSW regional average, as is satisfaction with quality of local roads. Interview access is similar to other regional areas (where access typically poor). Maintenance of local assets is below desirable levels. These issues can make it harder to prepare for and respond to challenges, and are long-term issues for many rural and regional communities.

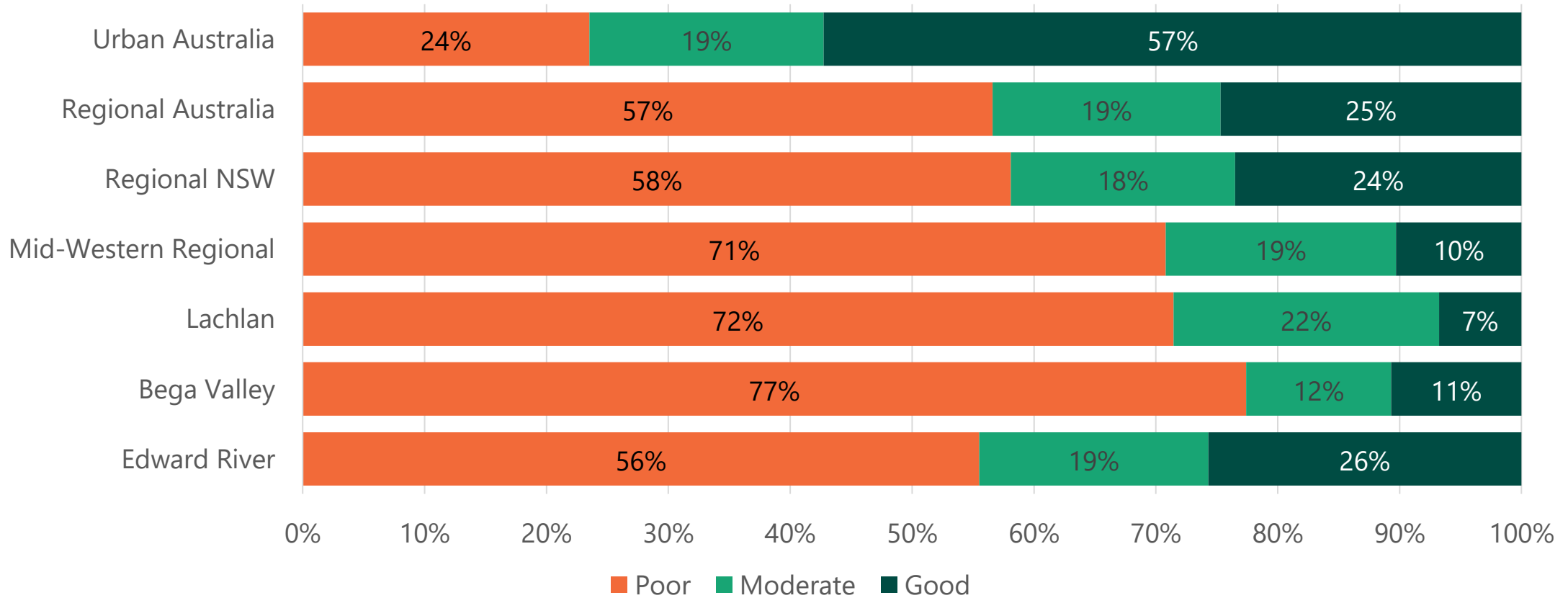
Infrastructure & services
(internet, tradies, roads, asset renewal)

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Access to telecommunications - mobile phone reception	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	36% report good access to mobile phone coverage in their local area	 40% (2014) → 36% (2022)
Access to telecommunications – internet access	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	39% report good access to reliable high-speed internet	 36% (2014) → 39% (2022)
Access to transport infrastructure – quality of local roads	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	13% report having good access to high quality road networks in their local area	 45% (2014) → 13% (2022)
Local availability of tradespeople	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	11% report good access to tradespeople	Data unavailable
Local availability of professional services	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	36% report good access to professional services	 64% (2014) → 36% (2022)
Local government asset renewal	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	102% was the average building & infrastructure renewal ratio for last three years	 41% (2020) → 102% (2022)
Local government asset maintenance	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	100% was the average asset maintenance ratio for the last three years	 86% (2020) → 100% (2022)
Number of public halls	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	4.8 public halls per 10,000 people	 6.2 (2017) → 4.8 (2022)

INDICATOR: AVAILABILITY OF TRADESPEOPLE

Availability of tradespeople, 2022-23

Data source: Regional Wellbeing Survey



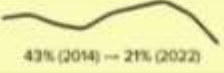
Institutional, natural hazard and liveability resources

Institutions,
natural
hazard
resources

In Bega Valley, there is moderate confidence in the effectiveness of local groups and organisations, but lower confidence in the availability of local leaders to step up in times of challenge. There is evidence of burnout emerging in leaders and organisations with a decline over time in ratings of ability to take the lead and get things done. A key strength in the area is high local amenity.

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

Institutional resources are resources that help a community function through providing organisation and leadership. While it is common for discussion of institutional resources to focus on formally constituted organisations such as local government, just as important are the less formal local community groups and leaders who work to lead and organise community efforts.

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Confidence in local government	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	21% agree that their local government is able to help their community face challenges	 43% (2014) → 21% (2022)
Confidence in community leadership	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	34% agree that 'Whatever the problem is, someone in this community takes the lead in sorting it out'	 58% (2014) → 34% (2022)
Effectiveness of local groups and organisations	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	58% agree that local groups and organisations in their areas are good at getting things done	 69% (2014) → 58% (2022)

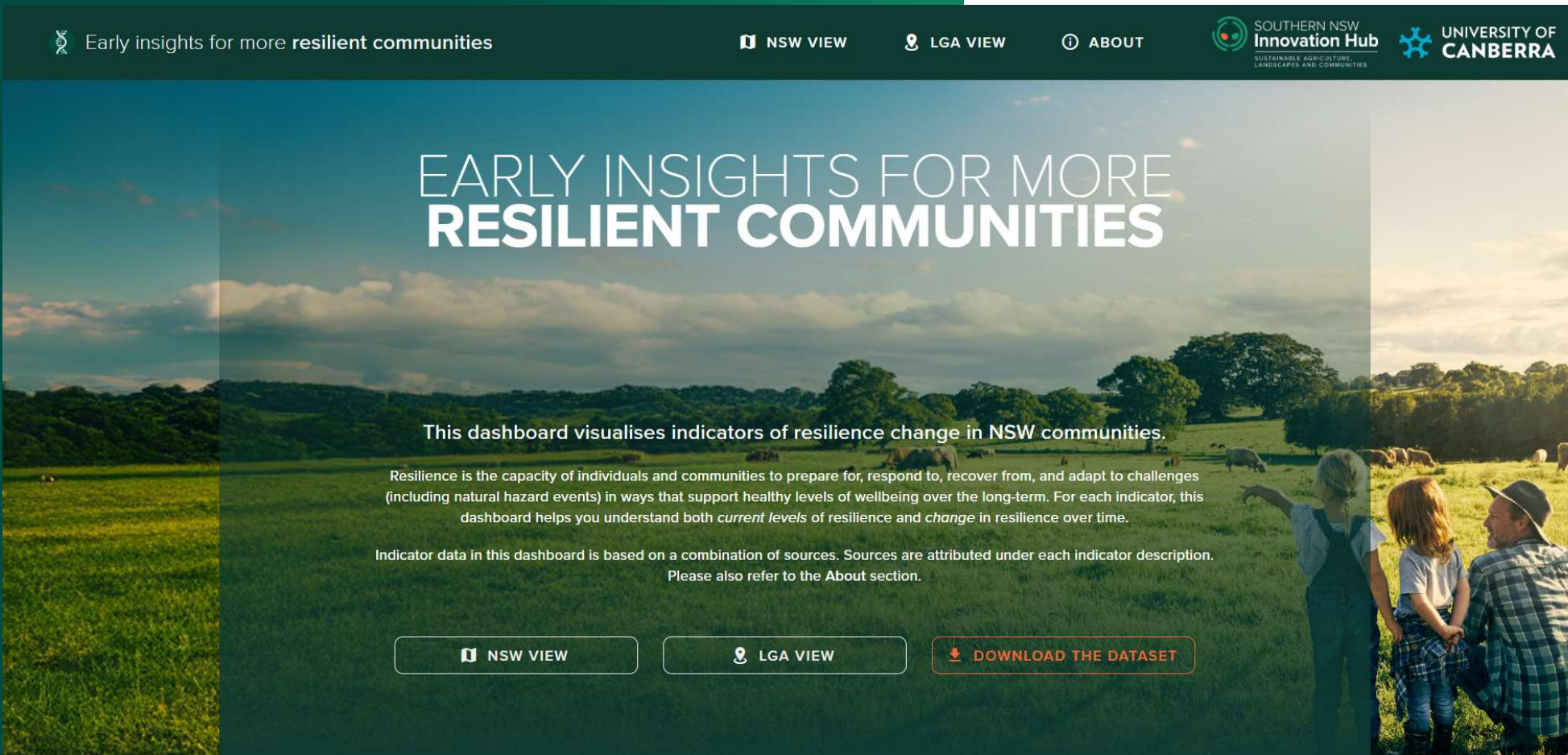
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Ecosystem services are services reliant on the functioning of the natural environment – including clean air, clean water, food and landscape amenity. Many of these services are reliant on the intersection of human and natural systems: for example, having sufficient supply of domestic water depends on both the physical infrastructure put in place for water diversion, treatment, storage and supply, and on ecosystem services in the form of health of waterways and waterbodies in a region.

Resilience Indicator	Geography Reported	Resilience Level	Resilience Change
Local amenity - environment and surrounds	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	97% report high levels of satisfaction with local environment and surrounds	 95% (2014) → 97% (2022)
Local amenity - nature areas	Bega Valley <i>Single LGA</i>	89% report that there are attractive natural places in their community	 93% (2014) → 89% (2022)

Thank you to the many organisations, individuals and data providers, as well as all the partners involved in the project

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THANK YOU

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