

Is your project helping your community be more disaster resilient?

If so, apply online now for the 2014 Resilient Australia Awards

What are the Resilient Australia Awards?

The Resilient Australia Awards recognise and promote initiatives across the nation that support and strengthen community disaster resilience. The awards encourage excellence and innovation in all sectors of society. They are sponsored by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department in conjunction with the state and territories.

The Honourable Michael Keenan, Minister for Justice presented the 2013 awards at the national ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



Selected 2013 award winning projects

Local Government Category - Joint Winners

Community Development Engagement Initiative
17 Queensland Councils with support from the Queensland Government and Local Government Association of Queensland

This initiative was designed to assist communities beyond the rebuilding and repairing of physical infrastructure and homes. It recognised that people should be at the centre of recovery and therefore focused on the long-term restoration of a community's emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing. It targeted 17 local government areas across Queensland which were hardest hit by the floods and cyclone disasters that occurred during the 2010/-11 summer season.

Through the implementation of this initiative, councils have been key drivers in supporting the recovery of local communities, through the delivery of almost 250 events, activities and projects that have recorded over 275,000 points of engagement. A series of case studies (21 in total) have been developed to share the learnings and celebrate the success of the innovative and diverse practice.

Stawell Steps/Monash Steps Northern Grampians Shire Council



Cr Kevin Erwin, Greg Little, Jim Nolan

Completed in November 2012, the Steps are now a feature of Stawell's much-loved park and represent a partnership between 11 organisations, including Council, metropolitan and rural people, a local brick manufacturer and Monash University architecture students.

The Stawell Steps/Monash Steps are more than a practical solution to a water management problem or a boring old spillway. The steps are in essence a risk mitigation project, two flood spillways that ensure businesses and houses neighbouring the lake in Stawell, western Victoria, will not again be damaged by flood waters as they were in January 2011, when floods caused widespread damage across Northern Grampians Shire.



The Hon Michael Keenan MP, Brent Reeman, Katie Edmiston, Cr Tanya Milligan

Local Government Category - Highly Commended

Landslide Risk Management Education Empowerment Website
Australian Geomechanics Society and Sydney Coastal Councils Group

A partnership between the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (including 15 Councils) and the Australian Geomechanics Society is a novel and innovative relationship between practitioners and regulators. Together they have developed an interactive web-based site to provide Landslide Risk Management (LRM) education, particularly based upon Australian experience. The website was established in July 2012 to provide a ready means for empowerment and encouragement of individuals who might be interested in LRM; be they regulators, practitioners or members of the Australian public.



The Hon Michael Keenan, MP, Geoff Withycombe, Andrew Leventhal

Integrated Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Central Local Government Region of South Australia

In 2011 the Central Local Government Region of Councils, along with Regional Development Australia and Northern & Yorke Natural Resources Management Board undertook an Integrated Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (IVA).

The assessment phase of the project identified areas of vulnerability to climate change in the region across environmental, economic and social spheres, and made recommendations for further pursuit by the regional partners. A Regional Climate Change Action Plan has subsequently been prepared including adaptation actions to improve community safety and strengthen resilience in the face of climate change.



Natasha Hall, Mayor Ray Agnew, Anita Crisp

NEW FOR 2014 - photograph category for individuals or professional photographers.

Submit your photograph depicting disaster resilience in Australia and you could have it published on the front cover of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management. Shortlisted entries will be available from the Australian Emergency Management Knowledge Hub for public voting.

ENTRIES CLOSE: 2 July 2014

'Celebrating 15 years of the awards – be a part of it, apply now'

This is the URL to the online application site: <http://raa.e-award.com.au/newentry/intro.php>

Further information is also available on the Australian Emergency Management Knowledge Hub: www.emknowledge.gov.au.