From the SelectedWorks of Neil Dufty

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Community involvement in planning: locals participating in their local flood solutions

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/neil_dufty/57/

Community Involvement in Planning

NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Locals participating in their local flood solutions

Community Participation in Emergency Planning: Communities and SES on the SAME PAGE

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There is acknowledgement across the emergency management sector of the need to shift from planning for communities to planning WITH communities, where community are equal participants.

> ***Engaging communities as equal partners in risk decision making processes is essential to building resilient communities.***
> (Attorney-General's Department, 2013).

The Community Involvement in Planning Pilot Project found:

- 19 Recommendations across: Strategy; Community Engagement Practice; Capability and Capacity and; Culture which provide direction for the uptake of community participatory approaches
- Adopting participatory-based approaches and engaging with communities be encouraged throughout all phases of the disaster management cycle where fixed organisational based objectives are best avoided as these need to be negotiated with communities
- Engagement and participatory approaches are not a silver bullet and there needs to be flexibility in approaches to suit local communities

> ***Community engagement must be central to the business of the emergency management sector, being fully embedded within its culture, vision, policies, procedures and practice.***
> (Attorney-General's Department, 2013).

- 12 Community Engagement Design principles
- Current emergency management resources, capability, capacity and culture need to adapt to and incorporate community-centric approaches, recognising community engagement as equal to emergency response functions, and that the community is an equal and active participant in emergency management to build community resilience

Next:

- Respond to recommendations and determine future actions
- Design foundational awareness and initial centric-shift platform – SAME PAGE
- Develop Change Management Plan for shift to community-centric approaches
- Implement 12 Community Engagement Design Principles

Further Information:

Community Involvement in Planning Pilot Project reports:
Report 1: Research Report
Report 2: Design and Evaluation Report
Report 3: Final Report

Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM) Article (Volume 32, No.2, April 2017)

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Risk Frontiers and Molino Stewart

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12 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Understand the community
- Allow sufficient time
- Engage early and often
- Be flexible and tailor your approach
- Agree on objectives from the outset
- Acknowledge the community as equals
- Engage in a two-way dialogue
- Utilise skilled facilitation expertise
- Utilise expert and local knowledge
- Utilise and build social capital
- Evaluate programs
- Foster a culture of community participation

COMMUNITY & SES | ON THE SAME PAGE

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