

# Respect and recovery – state and local government working together with communities

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**Presenting to the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2019.**

Councils are the lynchpin in local communities; when a disaster happens they know how the impacts will be felt and they know their community's concerns and priorities. Respecting and harnessing this knowledge are fundamental to successful recovery. The NSW Office of Emergency Management Recovery Coordination Team deploys to disaster affected areas, working alongside the local council and community, providing support and guidance to the recovery effort. This partnership is successful when it is based on mutual trust and respect and an honouring of local leadership and knowledge. Local council brings knowledge and expertise in community while the State Recovery Team brings its knowledge and expertise in recovery.

Facilitated by Anne Leadbeater OAM, this panel session brings together key players from the Tathra and district bush fire recovery: Bega Valley Shire Council General Manager Leanne Barnes, Recovery Coordinator Euan Ferguson and NSW Deputy State Recovery Controller Wendy Graham. They will share how local and state government are working respectfully and collaboratively together to drive effective recovery in disaster affected communities.

The panel will share some of the successes and challenges experienced in the Tathra and district recovery, along with a group question time facilitated by Anne Leadbeater. The panel will discuss the following:

- What examples of connection between diverse actors are leading the way?
- Which resilience initiatives show the power of respect and trust with diverse communities?
- What empowers people to act on disaster resilience? What disempowers them?
- How can we harness the wisdom of lived experience to prepare for the future?