

Cairns region context

- Beautiful tropical location BUT all is not always well in paradise.
- Complex socio-economic makeup comprising many cultures, both ends of the economic spectrum, highly transient population, hundreds of thousands of tourists, limited employment opportunities.
- Economy heavily tourism reliant
- Very different geographic communities spread from south to north.
- Natural disaster prone; cyclones, storm surge, flash foods, landslips, tsunami, bush fire, earthquake – **heatwave...**
- But no major disaster since 2011.
- Plenty of urban myths/old beliefs...
- Complacency the enemy.
- “Someone else” will take care of it – dependence on government and community based supports.

Resilience Scorecard Outcomes

- Resilience effort strongly lead by local government, with degrees of support from state and other organisations - should be increased.
- Gaps in process such as limited risk assessments or single hazard planning; knowledge of some factors.
- Limitations in infrastructure eg emergency fuel supplies, emergency communications, human resources, ecosystems services, food.
- Suspected people unlikely to do well managing more than a few days.

Pandemic Experiences

- No pandemic here! Very few cases.
- Misinformation/too much information – impossible to establish truth.
- Social effects... fear, anxiety, no preparation, mass job losses – basic needs emerging.
- Economic effects ... no tourists, no money, relief queues.
- Restrictions reluctance.

Response and recovery

- Not the lead agency – finding our role.
- Adaptive capacity to the situation – not a cyclone, not even a pandemic – identify what's most critical and respond constructively.
- Cairns Local Coronavirus Hotline – local response for local issues.
- Identifying major issues, needs, strengths by working with our community networks across sectors.
- Accepting an unforeseen situation; learning from it; transitioning learning into ongoing recovery. Use public health scorecard process!

