

# National Disaster Resilience Strategy

Rautaki ā-Motu  
Manawaroa Aituā



**Introduction  
and overview**

# New Zealand faces some of the greatest natural hazard risks of any country in the world.



We also face a range of hazards and risks from other sources, from plant and animal diseases, to human health, to technological disruptions and security threats.

Many of these have the potential to be exacerbated with the increased risks posed by climate change.



Other trends in our society and the broader international context means that our risk landscape is increasingly complex and uncertain.

# **How we manage these risks is critical.**

New Zealand is relatively well placed in this regard with comprehensive legislation in place for risk management, including the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991, the Building Act 2004, the Local Government Act 2002, and a range of other legislation and regulatory instruments.

We have a system of overseeing and managing national security (the National Security System) and emergency management arrangements at the local, regional, and national level.

There is passion and commitment from all those who respond to emergencies – paid staff, volunteers, and communities alike.

# The **CDEM Act** is a key piece of the framework for managing risks. It:

- promotes the **sustainable management of hazards** in a way that contributes to safety and wellbeing;
- encourages **wide participation in the process to manage risk**;
- requires planning and **preparation for emergencies**;
- **requires local authorities to coordinate** reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities through regional groups;
- provides a basis for the integration of national and local planning and activity through a **national strategy and plan**; and
- **encourages coordination across a wide range of agencies**, recognising that emergencies are multi-agency events affecting all parts of society.

The overarching intent is for a  
**Resilient New Zealand** –  
one in which threats and impacts to  
our safety, wellbeing, and prosperity  
are minimised.



The CDEM Act requires a national strategy that sets the **long-term vision and goals** for delivering the intent and purpose of the CDEM Act.



The Strategy is the '**basis for integration**' of national and local activity and planning – a device to make sure **we are all going in the same direction**, and all putting effort towards the same goals and objectives.



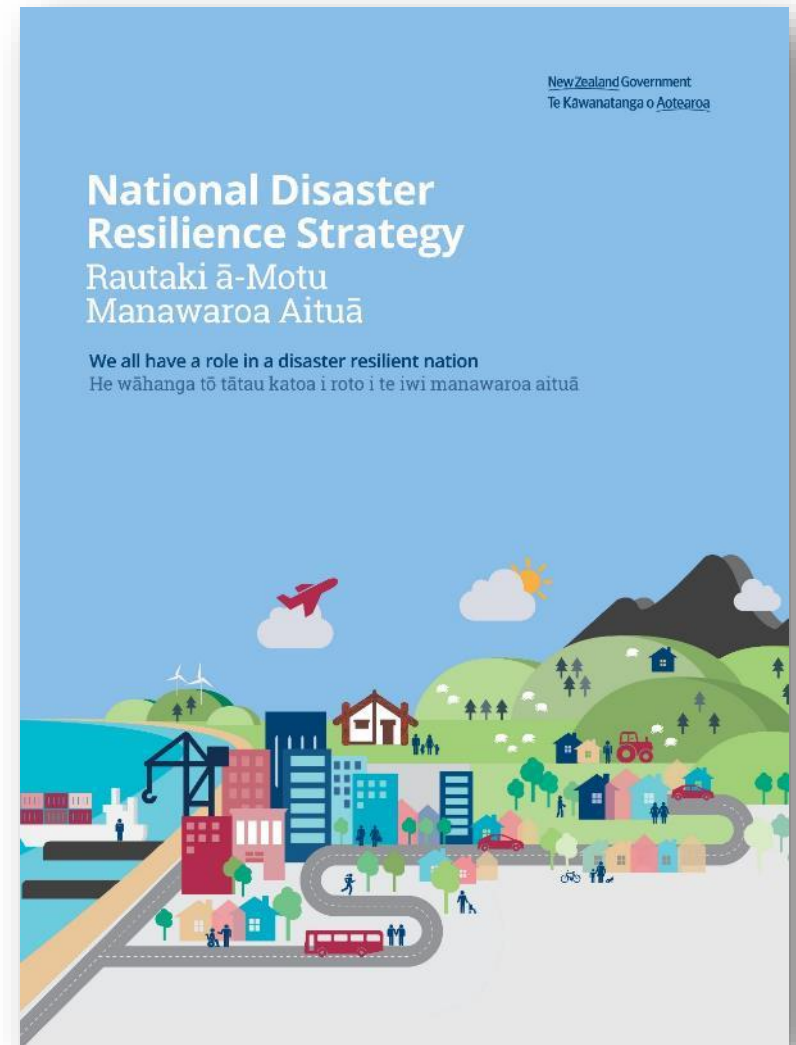
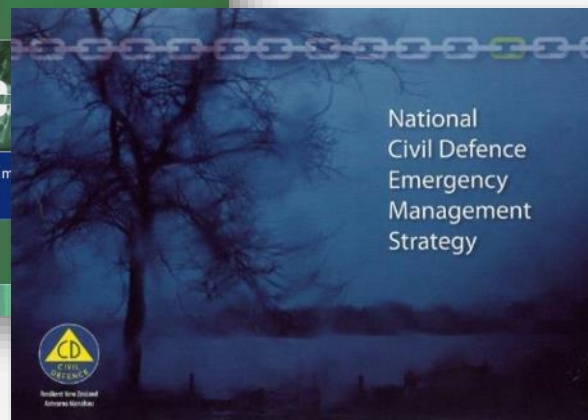
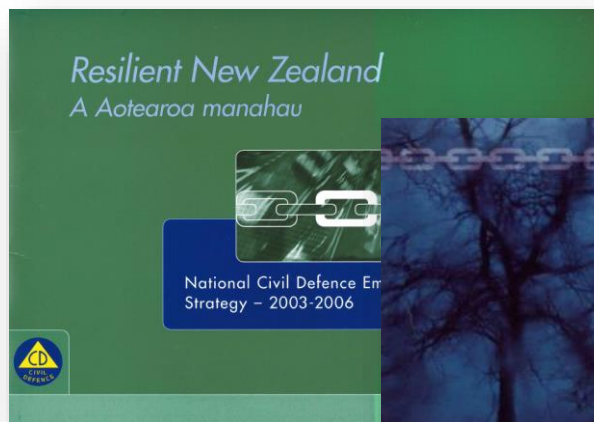


The **Strategy** is for **all New Zealanders**,  
and all who live, work, and visit here.





The **National Disaster Resilience Strategy** is the **third** national civil defence emergency management strategy made under the CDEM Act.



# How it's developed

New strategies are issued as we learn more about what contributes to resilience and how we can build a **more resilient nation.**





**We have learnt much in the last 10 years** with events like the Canterbury (2010-2011) and Kaikōura (2016) earthquakes, Havelock North campylobacter outbreak (2016), Port Hills fires (2017), the Mycoplasma bovis disease outbreak (2017) – and many storms, floods, and droughts in between.









## Other factors influence the Strategy, including:

- **Wider trends in our environment**, such as population trends, security trends, technology changes, and changes in society;
- **Priorities of the Government** of the day; and
- **Global agreements** such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Climate Change Agreement, and Sustainable Development Goals.



Finally, the Strategy is **developed collaboratively**, in partnership with a wider range of stakeholders. A series of workshops around the country during 2016-2018 helped develop the vision, goals, and objectives



# Our **Strategy** for improved disaster resilience:





# Our Vision



New Zealand is a **disaster resilient nation** that acts proactively to **manage risks** and **build resilience** in a way that contributes to the **wellbeing and prosperity** of New Zealanders





# Our Goal



To strengthen the resilience of the nation, by:

**1** Managing Risks

**2** Effective Response to and Recovery From Emergencies

**3** Enabling, Empowering, and Supporting Community Resilience

# 18 objectives give effect to the goal:

## 1 Managing Risks

1. Identify and understand risk scenarios (including the components of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity), and use this knowledge to inform decision-making
2. Put in place organisational structures and identify necessary processes – including being informed by community perspectives – to understand and act on reducing risks
3. Build risk awareness, risk literacy, and risk management capability, including the ability to assess risk
4. Address gaps in risk reduction policy (particularly in the light of climate change adaptation)
5. Ensure development and investment practices, particularly in the built and natural environments, are risk-aware, taking care not to create any unnecessary or unacceptable new risk
6. Understand the economic impact of disaster and disruption, and the need for investment in resilience; identify and develop financial mechanisms that support resilience activities

## 2 Effective Response to and Recovery From Emergencies

7. Implement measures to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of people is at the heart of the emergency management system
8. Build the relationship between emergency management organisations and iwi/groups representing Māori, to ensure greater recognition, understanding, and integration of iwi/Māori perspectives and tikanga in emergency management
9. Strengthen the national leadership of the emergency management system to provide clearer direction and more consistent response to and recovery from emergencies
10. Ensure it is clear who is responsible for what, nationally, regionally, and locally, in response and recovery; enable and empower community-level response, and ensure it is connected into wider coordinated responses, when and where necessary
11. Build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce for response and recovery
12. Improve the information and intelligence system that supports decision-making in emergencies to enable informed, timely, and consistent decisions by stakeholders and the public

## 3 Enabling, Empowering, and Supporting Community Resilience

13. Enable and empower individuals, households, organisations, and businesses to build their resilience, paying particular attention to those people and groups who may be disproportionately affected by disaster
14. Cultivate an environment for social connectedness which promotes a culture of mutual help; embed a collective impact approach to building community resilience
15. Take a whole of city/district/region approach to resilience, including to embed strategic objectives for resilience in key plans and strategies
16. Address the capacity and adequacy of critical infrastructure systems, and upgrade them as practicable, according to risks identified
17. Embed a strategic, resilience approach to recovery planning that takes account of risks identified, recognises long-term priorities and opportunities to build back better, and ensures the needs of the affected are at the centre of recovery processes
18. Recognise the importance of culture to resilience, including to support the continuity of cultural places, institutions and activities, and to enable the participation of different cultures in resilience





# It focuses strongly on **resilience**

The Strategy promotes resilient practices at all levels, from individuals and families/whānau, businesses and organisations, communities and hapū, cities, districts and regions, and Government and national organisations



It is explicit that  
the purpose of  
resilience is the  
**protection of  
wellbeing and  
prosperity**

The Strategy puts the wellbeing of people and communities at its core, to ensure our investment in resilience pays dividends for all our people.



# It encourages us to be **'risk-informed'**

The Strategy is concerned with identifying and monitoring risks to our wellbeing, taking action to reduce our existing levels of risk, minimise the amount of new risk we create, and ensuring that everyone has the information, and tools they need to be able to make informed decisions about resilience.







# It builds a fit-for-purpose **emergency management system**

The Strategy embeds the Government's decisions on the Technical Advisory Group report *Better Responses...* to ensure we have an emergency management system that is fit-for-purpose, capable, and future ready.





It promotes an  
**inclusive 'whole  
of society'**  
approach where  
**'we all have a role'**

The Strategy promotes an inclusive approach to strengthening societal resilience that connects with a range of agencies, sectors, communities, and hapū/iwi, for improved outcomes for New Zealanders.

It has a particular focus on...

Ensuring the resilience of Māori, and Māori concepts of resilience are woven through our planning and practice.






Recognising our cultural diversity and what culture and cultural life means to resilience. Ensuring the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities are met.





An aerial photograph of a rural landscape during the golden hour. A paved road runs vertically through the center, intersecting with a horizontal road. To the left of the vertical road, there are green fields and a few scattered houses. To the right, there are more fields, a large white house with a swimming pool, and a smaller white house with a blue swimming pool. The sky is filled with soft, warm light, and the overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Ensuring emergency management is cognisant of the particular challenges, needs, preferences, capabilities, and aspirations of rural communities.



Ensuring the voices of disabled people are heard, and our emergency management and resilience practices are disability-inclusive.



# How you can help!

**Everyone can help** by reading the Strategy and considering what it means for you, your family/whānau, community or hapū, business or organisation, and what you can do to contribute to your own resilience or the resilience of others.

Tip: Appendix 1 has some tailored recommendations that may help. The MCDEM website also has a series of resources.





# How you can help!

**If you work in emergency management, or in a risk or resilience-related field**, you have a particular role to promote and encourage up-take of the messages and objectives in the Strategy. Please familiarise yourself with the content, and get in contact with MCDEM if you have questions, or suggestions for activities that promote its implementation.



# How you can help!

Our aim is that resilience becomes **easy, affordable, common-sense,** and **familiar** for clients, stakeholders, partners, decision-makers, and the public alike.

We are a small agile nation. We are ambitious, innovative, motivated, and informed: **we can lead the world in our approach to resilience.**



# We all have a role in a disaster resilient nation

## He wāhanga tō tātau katoa i roto i te iwi manawaroa aituā

Find out more at

[www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)

