

Community Resilience

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Local Government Studies

Portfolios

- Rangers
- Operational Works crew –
Supervisors – Managers



Community Resilience



Image: © Synsols

Formerly

- Senior Risk Management Officer at Western Power. WA's major supplier of energy

Community Resilience

Western Power portfolios:

- Public Liability
- Motor Vehicle
- Workers Compensation
- Contractual arrangements

Community Resilience

Moved to Local Government in 2000 as a Ranger

- City of Bayswater – 2yrs
- Shire of Chittering – 5yrs
- City of Joondalup – 5yrs



Community Resilience

- Then I joined the public VET system in Oct 2010
- At C. Y. O'Connor Institute – Northam WA
- Working with Sharleen Jordan BSc Dip Ed Dip LG
- Best move I ever made



Community Resilience

- Back in time to 1998
- Moved to a rural 5acre property in Chittering 70km N of Perth



Image: © Synsols

- Joined the local volunteer bush fire brigade.
- Two years later - training new recruits

Community Resilience



And I'm still doing it today.

17 years fighting fires/
responding to emergencies

Rewarding but the devastation
& loss is emotionally taxing

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Community Resilience

- I have moved through the ranks of leadership at my brigade in Chittering
- I'm Captain of my local Muchea brigade
- 3 fire appliances and 40 volunteers
- A Fire Control Officer appointed by the local council under the Bush Fire Act 1954 to take charge of fires in our local area
- I still train new and existing volunteers

Community Resilience

- Member from my brigade on a Bush Fire Advisory Committee



Community Resilience

- This I believe puts me in a good position to have an influence in the safety of my community
- So this is where I can now lead into
- What is Community Resilience??????

Community Resilience

- Lets look at a community first.
- In general terms it is made up of -
- Ratepayers – Residents – Farmers
- Visitors
- Local business operators
- Local government
- State Government
- Maybe some Federal and Commonwealth agencies

Community Resilience

- I believe that people in a majority of cases want to feel safe
- What does SAFE actually mean?
- Having good infrastructure to meet current and future needs
- Having a good and reliable communication system with the community
- Having open and accountable local government

Community Resilience

- What else can you think of that a community might consider as important towards its safety that will and should lead towards what can be determined or explained as Resilience.
- ***GROUP ACTIVITY***
- Each table will assess this, write their answers down and have a table leader present back what you have come up with.

Community Resilience

- Federal Assistance
- Defence force personnel and equipment
- Disaster Funding



Community Resilience

- **State Government Assistance**
- Health services
- Children's services
- Disability Services
- Mental Health Services
- All the Emergency Services agencies
- Disaster relief funds – who administers that?



- www.cycoc.wa.edu.au

Local Government



Community Resilience

Other factors at Local Government level.

- Animals?
- Where do they go?
- Infrastructure



Image: © Synsols

Community Resilience

- What about people who are displaced????
- Is there a safe place for them?
- How are they fed, and given shelter?
- Who does this?
- What about the communications with these people. They want to know what's happening to their house/property.



Community Resilience

- The Shire of Chittering where I live has a LEMC in place
- Local Emergency Management Committee
- This committee is chaired by the Local Police Sgt. Other members are the CEO, Health Officer, Shire President, Operational works supervisor and the Community emergency Services Officer.



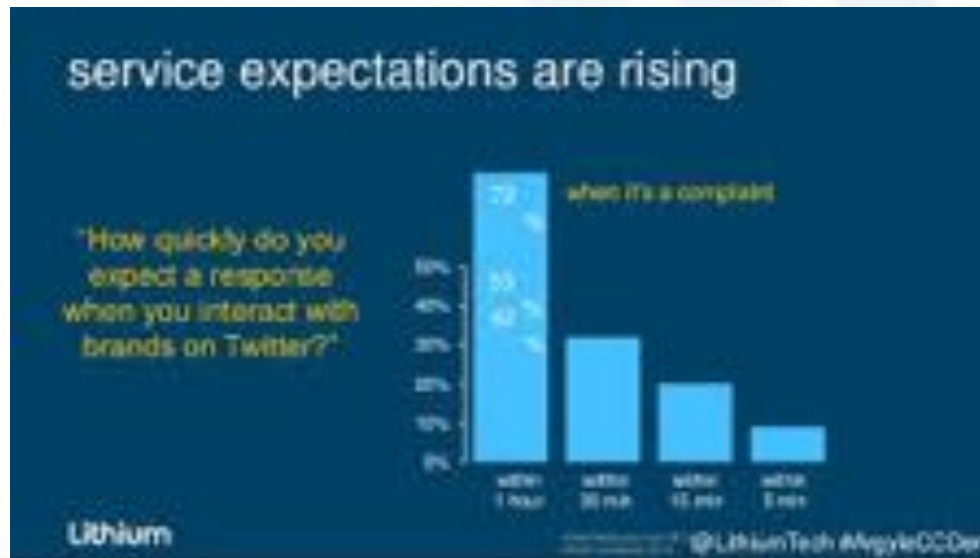
Community Resilience

- This committee will co-ordinate, administer and run the emergency within its own boundary until it needs State assistance.
- Then a handover will occur.
- Local Governments have a massive legislated responsibility to plan, prepare, respond and recover the situation as best as possible.



Community Resilience

- So how does a community respond – generally
- So what does a community expect from its leaders?



Community Resilience

- **Insurance**
- Are you insured YES / NO
- If yes – good
- If no – why not?
- **Risk management for your property and assets**
- **What do you have in place?**

Community resilience

- A community that plays together stays together
- Get to know each other
- What resources are in your community?
- What is your community profile?
- Who has what? (that we can use...)
- Who works during the day? Who needs help?
Etc....

Community resilience

- If people don't talk
- How can they help each other?



Community resilience

- Rural Watch / BRAG
- Progress Associations
- CWA
- Much better result in the recovery phase

Feedback from a friend of mine who recently lost his home and possessions in a fire – our Dr S.... VERBATIM

- “As one of the party who has gone through hell and has come back, each of your slides has a lot of relevance and application to the issues on hand.”
- “Recommendations to Federal & State authorities should be: Total fire victims should have one window clearance to retrieve all their lost Australian documents without going through the regular ‘rigmarole’.”

Continued...

- All the applications for the paper work does not have a box to tick for Fire Victims / Natural Disaster category.
- So when we wanted retrieve all our Australian based documents like Citizenship papers, Passport, Banking Papers, Drivers Licence etc. we got treated like all the regular applicants and this exercise was very nerve 'wrecking'.
- Try getting your 100 point check with no paperwork at all.

Continued...

- And at times this running around to demonstrate paper evidence was destroying our resilience to the very core.
- The Commonwealth was not very forthcoming to recognise the fact that we were total victims of the fire.
- Fire & Flooding is an ongoing natural occurrence in Australia but the system does not take these factors into consideration.

Continued....

- For all the fire victims - without the system's Sympathy and Empathy,
- Then maintaining ongoing emotional and physical resilience is extremely difficult
- One then becomes a Casualty and has no relevance!
- Thanks –
(from a) victim of the system

