



# A profile of Australia's disaster resilience

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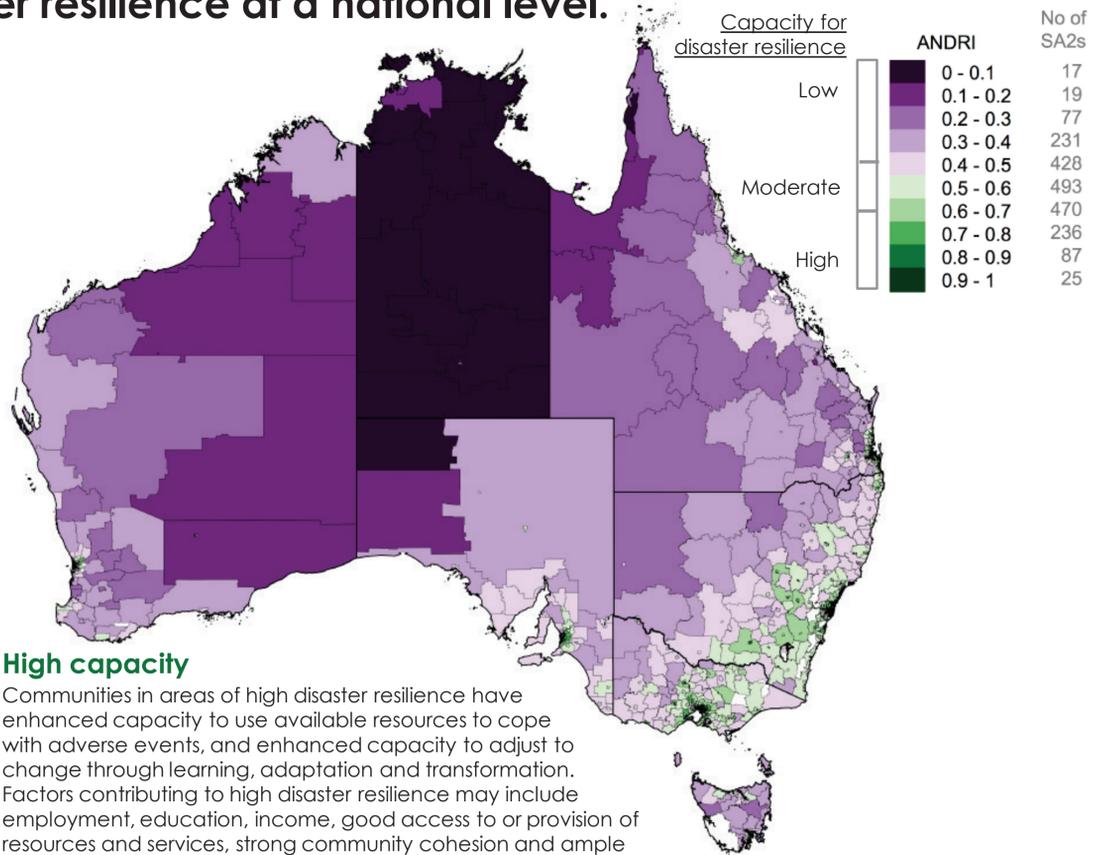
Australian communities face increasing losses and disruption from natural disasters. Disaster resilience is a protective system that arises from the capacities of social, economic and institutional systems to absorb the shocks of natural hazard events, and to learn, adapt and transform in anticipation of an uncertain future. The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index was used to profile the distribution of disaster resilience at a national level.

## Disaster resilience is not uniformly distributed in Australia.

32% of the population (7.6 million people\*) live in areas assessed as having high capacity for disaster resilience. These areas comprise <0.5% of the land surface area.

52% of the population (12.3 million people\*) live in areas assessed as having moderate capacity for disaster resilience. These areas comprise 6% of the land surface area.

16% of the population (3.8 million people\*) live in areas assessed as having low capacity for disaster resilience. These areas comprise 94% of the land surface area.



### High capacity

Communities in areas of high disaster resilience have enhanced capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events, and enhanced capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Factors contributing to high disaster resilience may include employment, education, income, good access to or provision of resources and services, strong community cohesion and ample opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

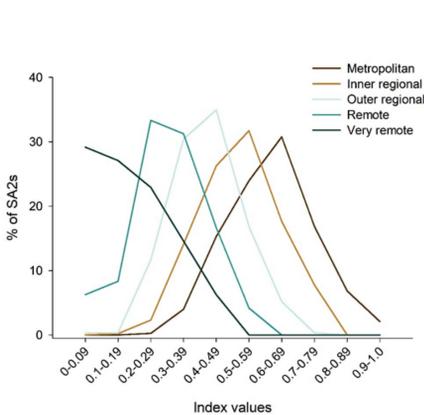
### Moderate capacity

Communities in areas of moderate disaster resilience have some capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events, and some capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Moderate disaster resilience is generally contributed by moderate levels of coping and adaptive capacity, which in turn are associated with moderate levels of economic capital, moderate provision of an access to services, moderate community cohesion and variable encouragement for adaptive learning and problem solving.

### Low capacity

Communities in areas of low disaster resilience may be limited in their capacity to use available resources to cope with adverse events, and are limited in their capacity to adjust to change through learning, adaptation and transformation. Limitations to disaster resilience may be contributed by entrenched social and economic disadvantage, less access to or provision of resources and services, lower community cohesion and limited opportunities for adaptive learning and problem solving.

## There is a distinct association between capacity for disaster resilience and remoteness.

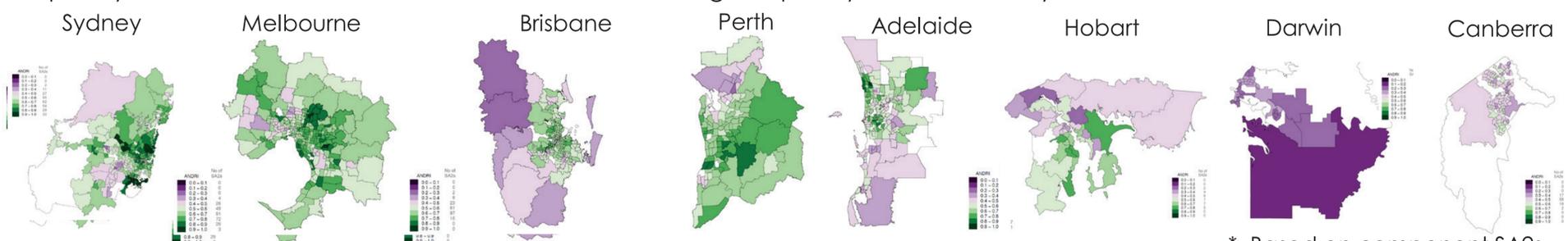


Remote and very remote areas are almost always associated with low capacity for disaster resilience.

The highest index values (0.9-1.0) – and hence the highest capacities for disaster resilience – are always found in metropolitan areas.

## Most areas of high capacity for disaster resilience are located in metropolitan Australia. However, areas of low capacity for disaster resilience also occur in metropolitan Australia.

38% of Australia's metropolitan areas\* have high capacity for disaster resilience. 9% of Australia's metropolitan areas\* have low capacity for disaster resilience. These areas of low and high capacity often sit side by side within cities.



\* Based on component SA2s