

Disaster Resilience Strategy

Community Consultation Report



May 2026

Prepared by
Kingborough Council

Kingborough

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Community Consultation

BACKGROUND

Kingborough Council is creating our first Disaster Resilience Strategy.

The strategy will identify goals and priorities to help the community and Council better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. It will directly influence the actions Council takes.

Kingborough Council plays an important role in disaster management. This includes activities that Council delivers directly, regulates, supports through partnerships, and advocates for where appropriate. The Strategy will focus on those areas within Council's direct influence and control.

ENGAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS

To help form future priorities, Council sought input from people across the community to understand what matters most to them. The consultation was open to residents, business owners, people who work or study in Kingborough, or those who visit regularly for recreation.

Feedback was sought via a survey that was open from 16 March until 4 May 2026.

Printed copies were made available for those who didn't want to complete the survey online.

SURVEY

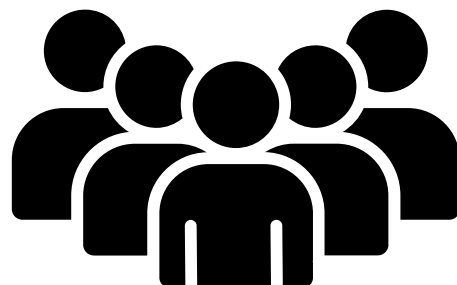
The survey consisted of 15 questions including an opportunity for respondents to provide "Other comments or ideas."

The survey aimed to obtain the following information:

- The level of concern within the community about natural hazards.
- Disaster preparedness (household)
- Disaster preparedness (community)
- Tasks undertaken to prepare for a disaster.
- Preferred methods of communication before, during or after a disaster
- What is valued for protection if a disaster occurred.
- What community resources would help with disaster recovery.
- What factors make preparing for, responding to, or recovering from disaster difficult?
- What would encourage more people to get involved in resilience building activities.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

165 Community survey



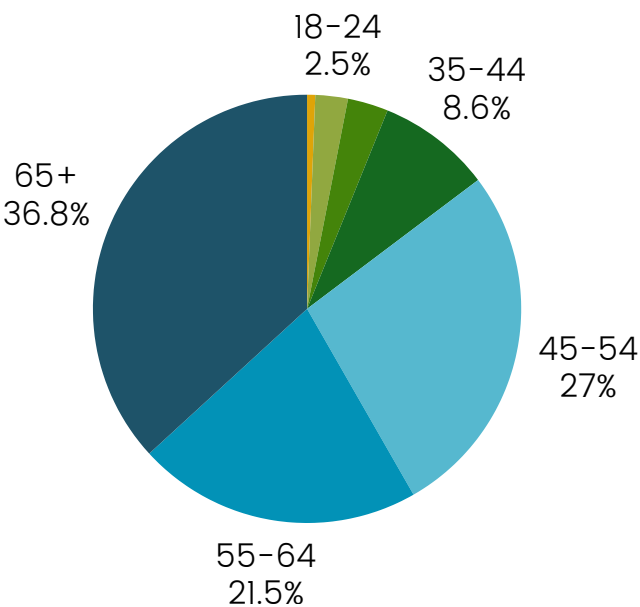
Community Survey Responses

Demographic Information

Q1. What is your age?

Under 18	1
18-24	4
25-34	5
35-44	14
45-54	44
55-64	35
65+	60

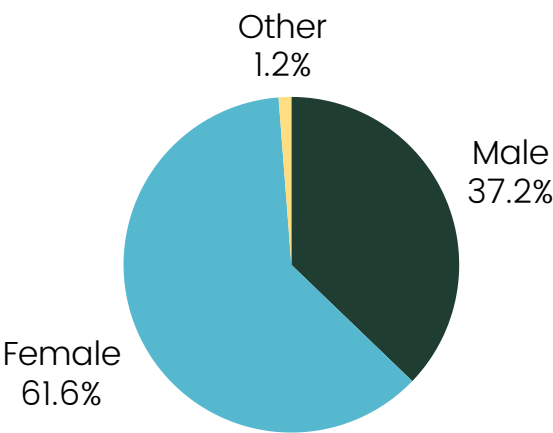
Question skipped:2



Q2. What is your gender?

Male	61
Female	101
Other	2

Question skipped:1



Community Survey Responses

Q3. What suburb do you live in?

Allens Rivulet	2	Longley/Lower Longley	1
Blackmans Bay	18	Margate	20
Birchs Bay	0	Middleton	3
Bonnet Hill	3	Neika	5
Bruny Island	11	Nichols Rivulet	0
Coningham	10	Oyster Cover	2
Electrona	4	Sandfly	3
Firthside	2	Snug/Lower Snug	14
Flowerpot	1	Spring Farm	1
Gordon	1	Tinderbox	4
Howden	9	Taroona	8
Huntingfield	0	Woodbridge	3
Kettering	4	Whitewater Estate	1
Kingston/ Kingston Beach	15	I live outside of Kingborough, but work here	3
Leslie Vale	10	Other	6

Question skipped:1

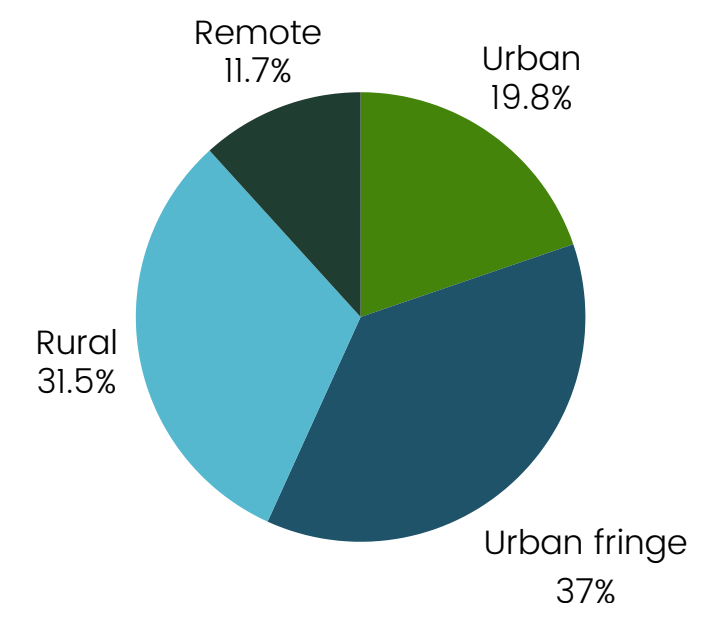


Community Survey Responses

Q4. How would you describe the place where you live in Kingborough?

Urban (built up with many houses)	32
Urban fringe (outskirts of built-up area with some bush nearby)	60
Rural (farms or larger properties with open land)	51
Remote (isolated property surrounded by bush)	19

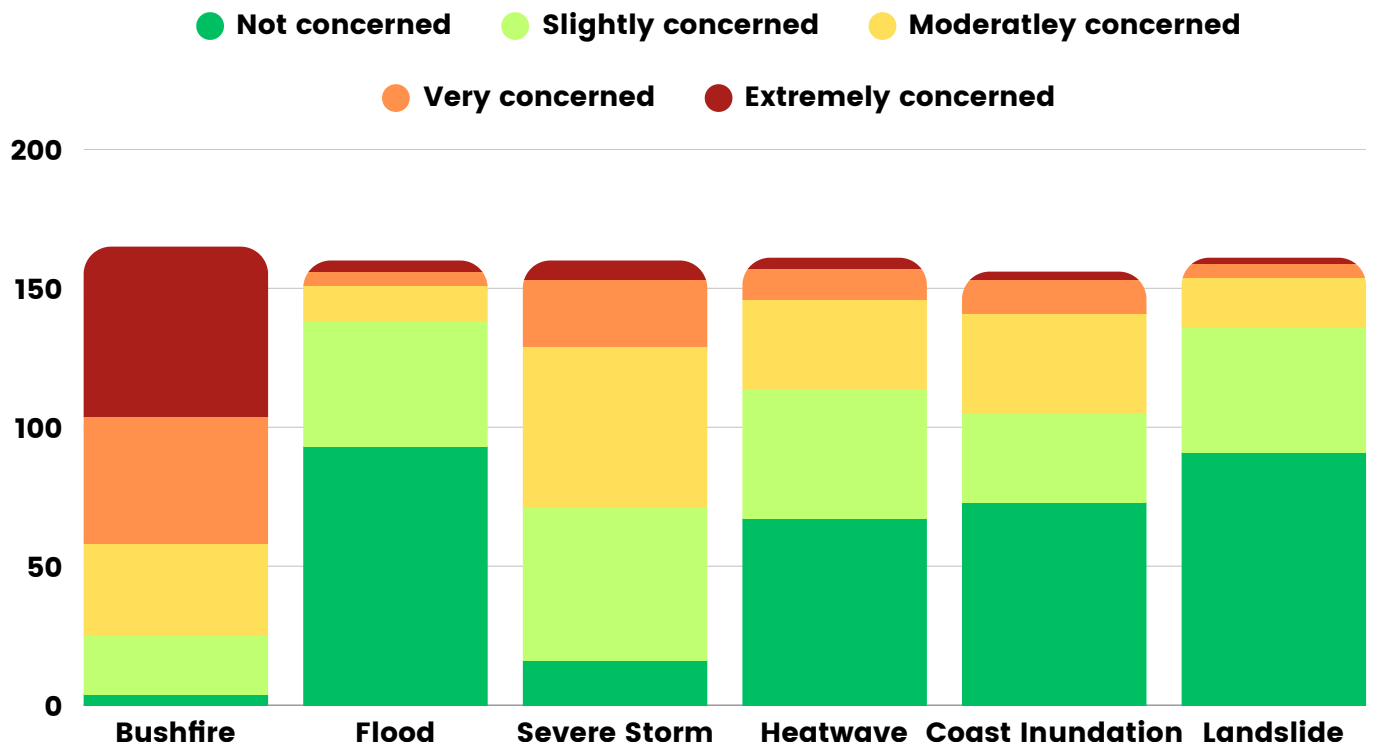
Question skipped: 3



Community Survey Responses

Q5. How concerned are you about the following hazards affecting your household or community?

	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned	Extremely concerned
Bushfire	4	21	33	46	61
Flood	94	45	14	5	4
Severe storm	16	55	58	24	7
Heatwave	67	47	32	11	4
Coastal inundation	74	33	36	12	3
Landslide	91	45	19	5	2

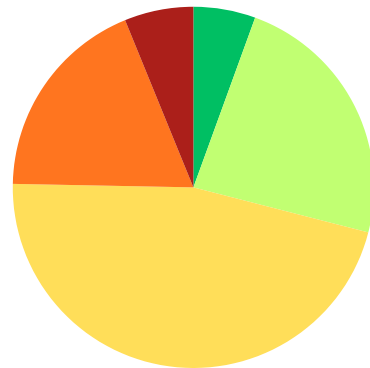


Community Survey Responses

Q6. How prepared is your household for a disaster?

Very prepared	9
Prepared	38
Somewhat prepared	75
A little prepared	30
Not at all prepared	10

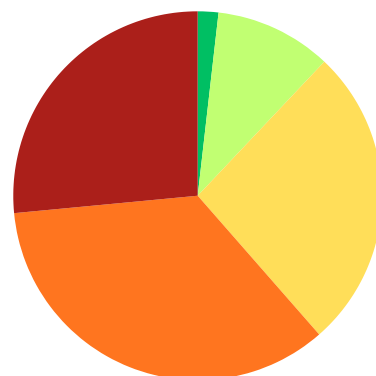
- Very prepared
- Prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- A little prepared
- Not at all prepared



Q7. How prepared is your community (street and neighbourhood) for a disaster?

Very prepared	3
Prepared	17
Somewhat prepared	45
A little prepared	58
Not at all prepared	44

- Very prepared
- Prepared
- Somewhat prepa...
- A little prepared
- Not at all prepared



Question skipped: 1

Community Survey Responses *****

Q8. Which one of the following disaster preparation tasks have you undertaken within the last year? Select all that apply to you

Answers	No.	%
I know what type of emergencies could affect me or my property	135	81.8
I am using the TasALERT App	130	78.8
I have completed maintenance activities around my house to reduce my risk	117	70.9
I know what the Australian Warning System means	76	46.1
I have created an emergency evacuation plan with my household	76	46.1
My emergency evacuation plan considers any special needs that my household may have	61	37.0
I have an emergency kit ready in case I need to evacuate	61	35.80
I have an emergency kit ready in case I need to shelter at home (for up to 3 days)	38	23
I have talked with neighbours about how we can help each other during an emergency	37	22.4
The people who support me can assist me during an emergency	34	20.6
I have practised my emergency evacuation plan	14	8.5
Other	10	6.1
None of the above	5	3.0

Community Survey Responses

Q8. Which one of the following disaster preparation tasks have you undertaken within the last year?

Other responses:

"I have a sprinkler system ringing the house attached to two water tanks with a petrol driven pump. Also a seperate pump & 50m hose for localised fires."

"We regularly test our fire fighting equipment (fire pumps, sprinkler systems, etc)"

"I am a volunteer in an emergency agency."

"I have a sprinkler system rigged up in case of fire."

"Had cool burning on my property, planted fire resistant gardens."

"I support people who live on my property in a house share situation."

"I live at Redwood Village which to me is a fire trap, most of my neighbours are frail old. There is only one exit for over 1000 people so if our family or agency wanted to pick us up they could not get in. We need more working exits now even before the nursing home is built. It should be the council planning because everyone you contact blames another agency"

"Retired ICS level3 Planning Officer and FBAN"

"LCZ has now raised the possibility of danger as we can no longer keep our own land hazard free."

"Under the proposed new zoning I will no longer be able to complete maintenance that supports the safety of my property."

Community Survey Responses

Q9. What is the best way to share information with your community before, during, or after a disaster?

Select up to 3 answers

Local Council website or social media	57
Community Facebook page, WhatsApp or online	92
SMS	112
Email	32
Radio	93
Printed material, eg. flyers, posters, community noticeboards	19
Community meetings or information settings	75
Word of mouth/neighbours	44
Local organisations	26
Other (please specify)	7

Sample of Other Responses

Delivered mail.

State Government, SES.

If no power there will be no phone or internet! Radio will be the only option.

Best way would be different in each case (before/during/after).

Emergency Phone Tree.

Via the shop and Post Office.

Community Survey Responses

Q10. What 'official sources' would you use to seek or access information before, during or after a disaster?

Select up to 3 answers

TasAlert	144
Kingborough Council	43
Tasmanian Fire Service	107
State Emergency Service	80
RACT	1
ABC	107
Other (please specify)	8

Question skipped: 1

Sample of Other Responses

I don't find TasAlert very user friendly.
I'm not sure our wireless NBN would
operate during an emergency
(particularly fire).

State Government.

Radio.

TASFires app.

TasPol.

Surf Lifesaving.

X (Twitter).

Direct personal contact with TFS and
PWS as TasAlert very poor product
for information.

Community Survey Responses

Q11. What things in your community would you most want to protect or keep if a disaster happened?

Local parks and playgrounds (e.g. Dru Point, Snug Beach Park)	33
Walking tracks and trails (coastal tracks, bushwalking tracks, mountain bike trails)	34
Beaches and foreshore areas (e.g. Kingston Beach, Blackmans Bay Beach, Snug Beach)	46
Community halls and meeting spaces	87
Sports grounds and clubs (football, cricket, netball, soccer)	33
Boat ramps, jetties and coastal access points	32
Libraries and community learning spaces	61
Schools and child care centres	93
Local shops and supermarkets	88
Cafes, bakeries and local gathering places	33
Relationship with neighbours	63
Medical centres, pharmacies and health services	115
Community gardens	18
Public toilets and picnic areas	36
Bus routes and transport links	64
Local roads and bridges that connect communities	123
Other	30

Community Survey Responses

Q11. What things in your community would you most want to protect or keep if a disaster happened?

Sample of Other Responses

“People”

.....

“Homes, livelihoods and lives.”

.....

“Lives, homes and escape routes.”

.....

“Sandfly shop and hall.”

.....

“Heritage listed properties.”

.....

“Critical infrastructure (water, phone towers, sewerage) and places where people work.”

.....

“Farmers with livestock.”

.....

“All homes in my rural area, which requires strategic bushfire maintenance to be urgently carried out.”

.....

“Ferry service”

.....

“Age care facilities”

.....

“My property and family and that of my neighbours properties and families. Our livelihoods and safety are being cast aside for the protection of vegetation and scenic value.”

Community Survey Responses

Q12. What strengths or resources in your community would help it cope and recover from a disaster?

Strong social networks	100
Active emergency services	111
Local community groups, clubs, organisations	87
Clear communication channels	108
Community spaces that bring people together (halls, schools, sporting clubs)	93
Local knowledge and experience of past disasters	86
People with useful skills (first aid, trades, emergency response, leadership)	110
Local businesses and services that support the community	66
Good transport routes and access to nearby towns or services	85
A culture of volunteering and helping others	93
Other (please specify)	19

Question skipped: 1

Sample of Other Responses

Better bushfire mitigation.

Clear indications of places of last resort if a disaster happened

The ability to manage our own land without the risk of Council intervention

Involving the community in emergency/ disaster management exercises.

Improved mobile phone coverage. No phone without internet down here!

Ferry service.

Clearing and fire breaks.

Better communication and public consultation would help.

Community Survey Responses

Q13. What factors make it harder for your community to prepare for, respond to, or recover from disasters?

Poor or vulnerable infrastructure (roads, bridges, power, communications)	94
Limited public transport or transport options	74
Difficult access or isolation from nearby towns or services	51
Limited mobile or internet coverage	73
Lack of awareness or understanding of local disaster risks	69
Limited access to emergency information	48
Ageing population or people needing additional support	78
People living alone or limited neighbour connections	72
Transient population (holiday homes, short-term residents, tourists)	24
Limited local services or businesses	36
Financial hardship within the community	50
Limited volunteer capacity (e.g. emergency services or community groups)	54
Language or communication barriers	15
Natural features that increase risk	58
Other (please specify)	39

Question skipped: 2

Community Survey Responses

Q13. What factors make it harder for your community to prepare for, respond to, or recover from disasters?

Sample of Other Responses

“Council and planning overreach and lack of people centric strategies, poor planning and communication from local government and apathy from government.”

“Restrictions to manage land how we see fit to mitigate bushfire risk.”

“Council restrictions on vegetation management to reduce fuel load. Council’s inadequate maintenance of roadside verges and escape routes.”

“Roads are in poor condition and quite narrow as well as having many dead and overhanging trees that could block the roads in a disaster.”

“Poor information”

“Planning Scheme Zoning – KC obtuse obstinance in applying LCZ to my area
Poor local government planning laws
Council regulations that are onerous to follow for our own property management
Council policy making it harder to maintain property”

“Pets and animal rescue.”

“Let people cool fire burn in winter to reduce the fuel load.”

“Tourists that setup roadside camps and light fires, even during fire bans.”

“Lack of free green waste at the local tip at the time we’ re all preparing our properties for fire.”

“Having sites across Kingborough that can connect to portable generators.”

“Poor planning laws that limit the ability of residents to be able to clear land for bushfire mitigation.”

“The lack of a plan to more the vulnerable people living in Redwood Village and other similar aged and disability villages.”

“Understanding the Council policies and advice regarding fuel reduction, tree management and opportunities for shared protective infrastructure.”

Community Survey Responses

Q14.What would encourage more people to get involved in resilience building activities?

Information about how to get involved	99
More local workshops or training sessions	81
Activities held at convenient times	60
Events held close to where people live	77
Opportunities to get involved with friends, family or neighbours	50
Short, practical activities that don't require a lot of time commitment	85
Support or guidance from local organisations or emergency services	81
Better communication about local risks and preparedness	84
Incentives or recognition for volunteering	40
Opportunities for young people and families to participate	38
More community events focused on preparedness	81
Online resources or training people can access any time.	68

Question skipped: 8

Community Survey Responses

Q15. Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about disaster resilience in Kingborough?

Sample of Responses

"There needs to be controlled burn offs from Margate to Sandfly (Huon Hwy)."

"Smokers dropping their butts, kids mucking around with fire etc have created more concerns for residents in that area."

"Allow land owners to be able to remove trees from there property that pose a risk to there family or home from fire."

"Sandfly Road verge is very overgrown and trees are very close to powerlines and some branches are so low they risk hitting school buses or trucks."

"Rural roads need to be better maintained/ widened."

"Fire is our biggest risk. There should be encouragement to clear and maintain properties. Currently red and green tape prevent residents from performing such tasks. Let alone with the incoming LCZ garbage."

"The first priority should be the reduction of the restrictions on vegetation clearance around properties and escape routes in rural areas."

"Council needs to relax the protection overlays that prohibit or require land owners to submit costly, time consuming applications to be able to clear vegetation within 100m of the dwelling and also relax regulations around hazard reduction burns on private property."

"Education, lifting awareness of other potential disaster threats other than the "bushfire" (same messages every year which becomes white noise)"

"It is difficult to organise people to get involved in volunteering. sometimes I feel the only way to get people to be interested in creating local resilience is to have a local disaster (fire/flood or whatever)."

"Maybe larger resilience presentations by fire brigade and Council staff at Kingborough Hub for all communities would work better!"

"Improved pruning of roadside trees. In even of storm or fire emergency, they may fall blocking the road, preventing evacuation."

"Yes, as I strongly believe the greatest threat for the entirety of Kingborough is bushfire, establishing fire corridors along all roadsides & highways & major roads initially as priority then minor roads over time is essential. This is to create essential firebreaks, reduce fire spread, increase controlling & managing fire events & ensure safer passages for traffic to move during disaster events."

"The only significant risk in Taroona is bushfire. The other issues might affect only a small number of people. For bushfires, the main concern I hear about involves the danger of the Channel Highway being blocked by falling trees. A local volunteer group trained and equipped to clear blocked roads could be useful."

Sentiment of Survey Responses

Q15. Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about disaster resilience in Kingborough?

Themes of Responses

Bushfire Risk as the Primary Threat

(included in 38 responses)

Key themes raised:

- Fire is the dominant risk to Kingborough
- Need for fuel reduction, fire breaks, roadside clearing.
- Channel Highway, Sandfly Road, Snug Tiers, Bruny, Tarooma repeatedly cited
- Blocked evacuation routes and falling trees.
- Lack of back burning and hazard reduction.

Vegetation Clearing Restrictions/ LCZ Opposition

(included in 32 responses)

Key themes raised:

- Strong opposition to LCZ on private land
- Inability to clear vegetation within 100m of dwellings
- Cost, time, and regulatory burden
- Perception that vegetation protection prioritises landscape over human life
- Calls to remove LCZ or significantly relax rules
- Evacuation sites have eucalyptus trees

Community Education & Communication

(included in 21 responses)

Key themes raised:

- Build local knowledge of emergency services
- Educate homeowners with preventative activities
- Dedicated emergency webpage
- Clear evacuation plans, signage and localised warnings
- Emergency briefing at Margate (Snug Tiers Bushfire) was excellent example

Support for Vulnerable People

(included in 13 responses)

Key themes raised:

- Assistance to prepare properties
- Early evacuation of vulnerable residents
- Disaster hubs and shelters
- Transport, checking on neighbours
- Equity concerns in preparedness (Redwood Village cited)

Community Resilience, Volunteering & Local Networks

(included in 11 responses)

Key themes raised:

- Difficulty engaging volunteers
- Low attendance at resilience meetings
- Desire for community-based drills and mock scenarios
- Local resilience networks beyond CEO
- Shared care and neighbour support