

Nimbin Community Disaster Plan - Survey 2022

REPORT

In 2022 the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) commenced a review of the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan with a view to update it and document any achievements made under the Plan to date. Following the 2022 floods it became clear that significant changes were needed to the Plan to reflect and incorporate the learnings and experiences of the community during and subsequent to the floods.

A revised version of the Disaster Plan was drafted and circulated to the community via various means, together with a survey which aimed to find out if the revised Plan met community needs. The survey was circulated during November and December 2022. A community forum was also held on 29th October 2022 (attended by 48 people).

The original Community Disaster Plan focused on preparedness only and was based on learnings from the bushfires, a number of community consultations and a survey of the community conducted in January 2021. The revised version of the Plan incorporates a Response and Recovery Plan, which was a key strategy identified by the community in the January 2021 survey, and the development of which was part of the original Preparedness Plan.

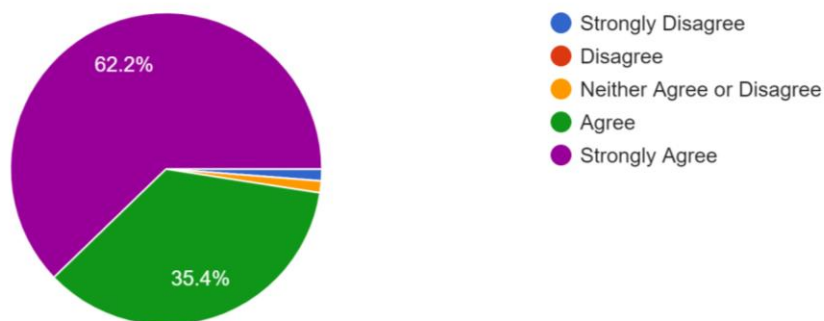
This 2022 survey aimed to find out if the community felt that NDRG were doing a good job in overseeing and implementing the Plan; if there was anything the community felt was missing from the Revised Plan, whether community members had a better understanding about what to expect in the event of a disaster, and more motivated in their own disaster preparedness, response and recovery as a result of the revised Plan. **There was a total of 82 responses.**

Community understanding

The survey identified the community felt the NDRG were doing a good job with 62.2% of respondents stating they Strongly Agreed and 34.5% Agreed.

PART A: Disaster Preparedness The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) is doing a good job at overseeing the implementation of the Disaster Plan. (please select your best answer)

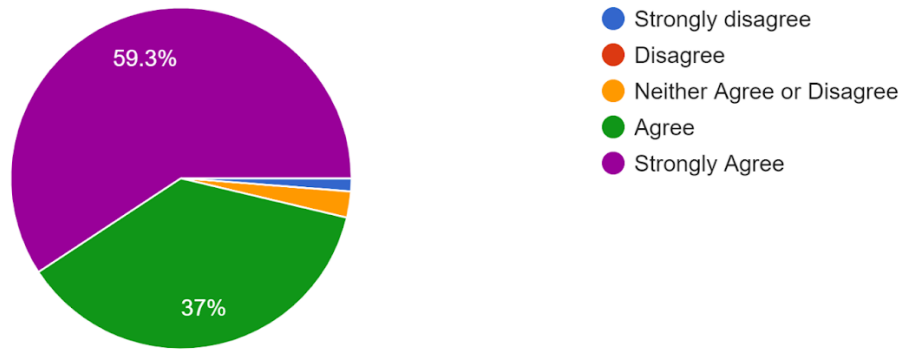
82 responses



The majority of respondents also reported an improved understanding of what to expect at a community level when a disaster happens, as a result of the revised Plan.

The Disaster Plan improves my understanding of what will happen at a community level in the event of a disaster (please select your best answer)

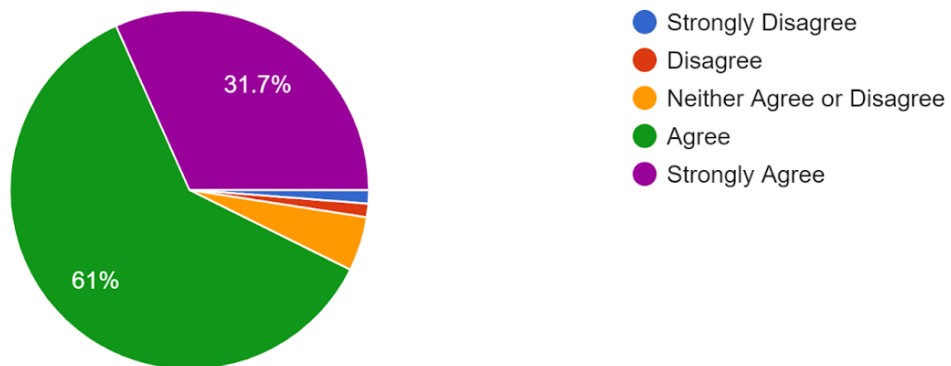
81 responses



The majority also reported and improved understanding of the roles of the various response agencies and community organisations in a disaster situation.

I have a better understanding of the roles of the various response agencies and community organisations who respond in the event of a disaster (please select your best answer)

82 responses

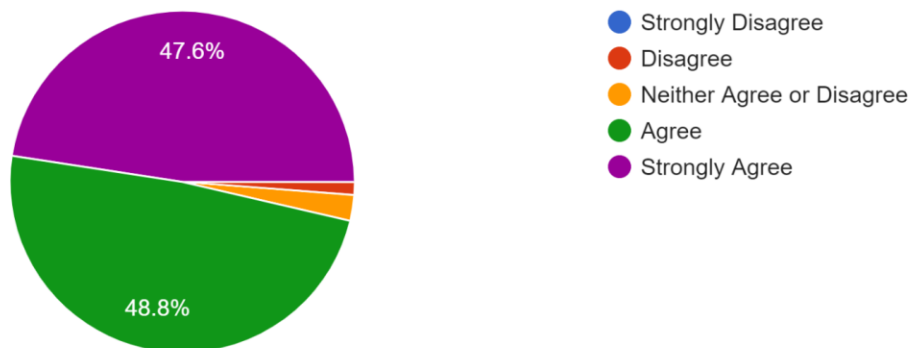


Community Preparedness

When asked if their confidence in the community's capacity to PREPARE for future disasters had increased, 48.8% Strongly Agreed and 47.6% Agree, demonstrating a positive indication of improvement in community confidence. 96% of respondents identified that the plan improved

My confidence in the community's capacity to PREPARE for future disasters has increased (please select your best answer)

82 responses



their understanding of what happens at a community level in a disaster and 92.7% had a better understanding of what response and community agencies' roles are during a disaster. The community identified additions to the Goals and Strategies under the Plan such as more community training and capacity building around Disasters, increased community meetings and activities raising awareness and preparedness, training in water rescue, landslides and flood events (SES based), RFS fire reduction property advice and better village signage of evacuation and assembly areas. These will be added to the Plan which will assist in seeking funding for these activities and needs.

Is there anything you feel should be added to PREPAREDNESS Goals and Strategies in the Plan?

There were a number of suggestions already covered by the Plan but there were also a few new ideas, including:

- Access to boats from Lismore
- Community access to training and resources on self-soothing - regulating emotions - understanding trauma and its impacts and grounding techniques
- Consider our local emergency network will contact with neighbouring areas
- Hold more community meetings at key times before, during and after a disaster
- More on engaging youth involvement
- Money options there were cash issues
- Something very simply worded for people with disabilities or young people or illiterate in a simple map style

Communication

Communication during Disaster events is often limited or non-existent, this was particularly highlighted in the 2022 as all forms of telecommunications failed. This left the community to rely on information and news from family and friends, word of mouth, CB/UHF radios and a few scattered Starlink systems, with outside information mostly being accessed via local ABC radio.

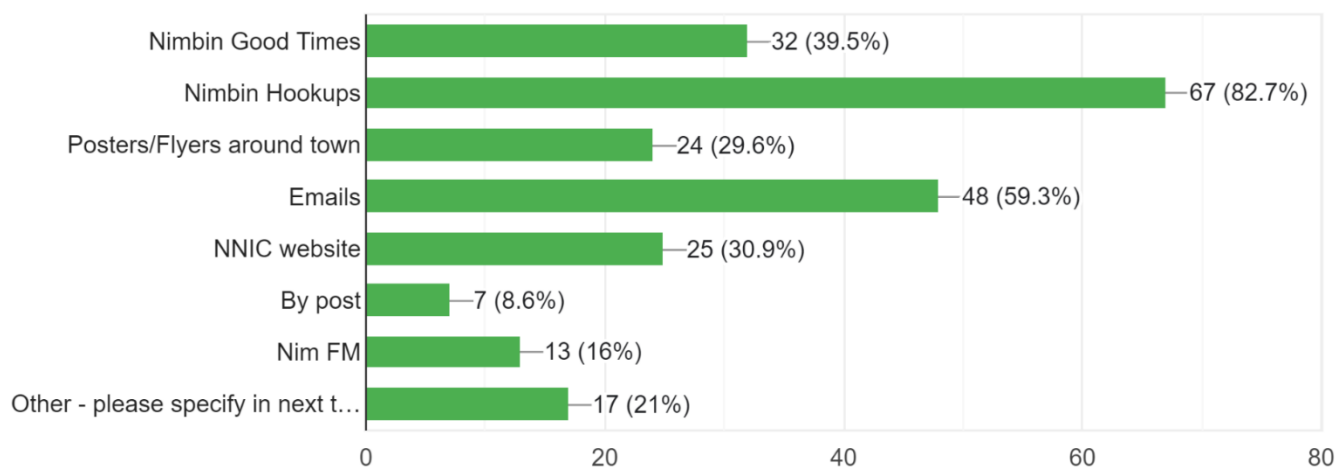
This disaster highlighted the limitations of the current modern telecommunications networks.

The Nimbin community has since established an Emergency Radio Network in case communications should ever again fail. The NDRG is supporting, educating and encouraging community members to have their own localised networks.

When our community was asked what the best place to receive community information was, it identified Nimbin Hookups 82.7%, email 59.3%, Nimbin Good Times 39.5%, NNIC website 30.9% and poster/flyers around town 29.6%.

What is the best form of communication for you to receive community information, especially during disasters? (assuming we have comms - select all that apply)

81 responses



Community Response and Recovery

When asked if their confidence in the community's capacity to respond and recover from future disasters had increased, 92.7% of responses were positive. When asked what key supports assisted/would assist in recovery, 62.8% said help reducing post disaster risks, 61% said help with post disaster ecosystem recovery, 60.3% said help with processing post disaster funding, insurance, claims etc., 55.1% aid better access to mental health services and 55.1% said help with post disaster financial recovery. Other responses (17.9%) included clean water access and

village static water supplies in case of breakdown in village water supply, and investing in existing or expanding knowledge and skills to be resilient.

PART B: Disaster Response and Recovery My confidence in the community's capacity to RESPOND AND RECOVER from future disasters has increased (please select your best answer)

82 responses

