



NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT VULNERABILITY PROGRAM

JLT Public Sector (National) has developed a vulnerability profile methodology and program (NLGVP) that can be applied for every council on a national basis. The purpose of the NLGVP is to harmonise the collection of local data and information that will respond to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements (*Chapter 4. Data*). In turn the new data will support the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience while informing the objectives of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) with a lens on local government.

The NLGVP has been built on:

- National Disaster Resilience Strategy
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements
- Objectives of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- (State) Govt Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- (State) Local Government Act (Guiding principles, Intent...)
- Local government's established maturing strategic risk reduction framework

Designed as a multi-faceted the program will :

- Deliver vulnerability profile results to every council aligned to individual strategic plans
- Build a platform of nationally consistent, new and harmonised data based on Local Government Act guiding principles
- Enable all governments to benchmark, monitor the build of "resilience" against the National (State/Territory) Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Enable better informed decisions more local, region, state mitigation investment
- Provide information and data that enables insurers to partner with all governments to benchmark investment in disaster risk mitigation

The value of our vulnerability profile program is that it can be applied and implemented consistently, using ground up information and data collected from local government. The program ensures every council has access to, and can implement, its vulnerability profile and data for the purpose of incorporating "resilience" and risk reduction initiatives into all future strategic planning and importantly make better informed decisions for investment in disaster risk mitigation.

National Strategy for Disaster Resilience

(Aust Institute for Disaster Resilience) Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR) acknowledges the increasing severity and regularity of disasters in Australia and the need for a coordinated, cooperative national effort to enhance Australia's capacity to withstand and recover from emergencies and disasters.

The NSDR describes disaster resilience as the collective responsibility of all levels of government, business, the non-government sector and individuals. Where these sectors work together with a united focus and a shared sense of responsibility to improve disaster resilience, they will be far more effective than the individual efforts of any one sector.

South Australia Government Disaster Resilience Strategy

SAFECOM has a lead role in disaster resilience policy, and was the lead agency behind the creation of Stronger Together - South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy. The Strategy provides a foundation upon which state and local governments, non-government organisations, businesses, and communities can work together to build resilience and make South Australia a safer place. In recognition that everyone has a role to play in building disaster resilience, the Strategy aims to increase understanding of the risks. Building the resilience and capacity of communities will also help to reduce the opportunity for a natural hazard event escalating to a "disaster".

There is no easy solution or endpoint to building resilience. In response SAFECOM is applying a complexity-based approach using an on-line tool that tracks systemic change in relation to resilience building in SA by highlighting the impact of projects funded by disaster resilience and risk reduction grants. This tool however identifies reactive investment in mitigation – not proactive investment and is not able to identify progress and gaps.

South Australian Local Government Act 1999 s7

The guiding object of Local Government Act 1999 Act is to promote the continuance of a system of local government in South Australia, supported by s6 *Role of a Council* and s7 *Functions of a council*, as set out:

s7—Functions of [council](#)

The functions of a [council](#) include—

- (a) to plan at the local and regional level for the development and future requirements of its [area](#);
- (b) to provide services and facilities that benefit its [area](#), its [ratepayers](#) and residents, and visitors to its [area](#);
- (ba) to determine the appropriate financial contribution to be made by [ratepayers](#) to the resources of the [council](#);
- (c) to provide for the welfare, well-being and interests of individuals and groups within its community;
- (d) to take measures to protect its [area](#) from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effects of such hazards;
- (e) to manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner, and to improve amenity;
- (f) to provide infrastructure for its community and for development in its [area](#)

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20 which resulted in loss of life, property and wildlife and environmental destruction. Sometimes referred to as the 'Bushfires Royal Commission', the Commission examined coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters as well as improving resilience and adapting to changing climatic conditions and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

Chapter 4 of the final Report is focussed on *Supporting Better Decisions*. Importantly recommendation 4.1 highlights need for "good information, data". 4.3 identifies the need for all levels of government to prioritise the implementation of data harmonisation and national data standards, create common information platforms and collaborate to enable the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks:

4.1 Good decision making needs to be based on good information. Decision-making for national coordination of disaster management requires knowledge, data and information to be shared, consistent and up to date. Decision-making extends well beyond the immediate crisis or operational phases of a disaster.

4.3 The Australian Government has acknowledged that it can, as it should, play a national leadership role in coordinating national data, information and standard setting, in consultation with states and territories. Australian, state and territory governments should prioritise the implementation of data harmonisation, and national data standards, create common information platforms and share technologies. This will enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.

Building a Vulnerability Profile

For the purpose of measuring and monitoring a council's role in leading its community, the vulnerability profile is able to be analysed against the council's strategic plan and budget – which in turn will inform policy, plans, procedures and assist with effective implementation. The two components of the NLGVP, the Vulnerability Survey and the Hazard Risk Assessment are important tools to support decision-making undertaken by different stakeholders for different purposes.

The Vulnerability Survey comprising 50 questions (via on-line survey) is capable of breaking down responses into data that defines the 4 pillars of vulnerability. This "council specific" analysis will enable a council to better understand and identify the risks and opportunities that Council has to effectively and efficiently invest in community resilience.

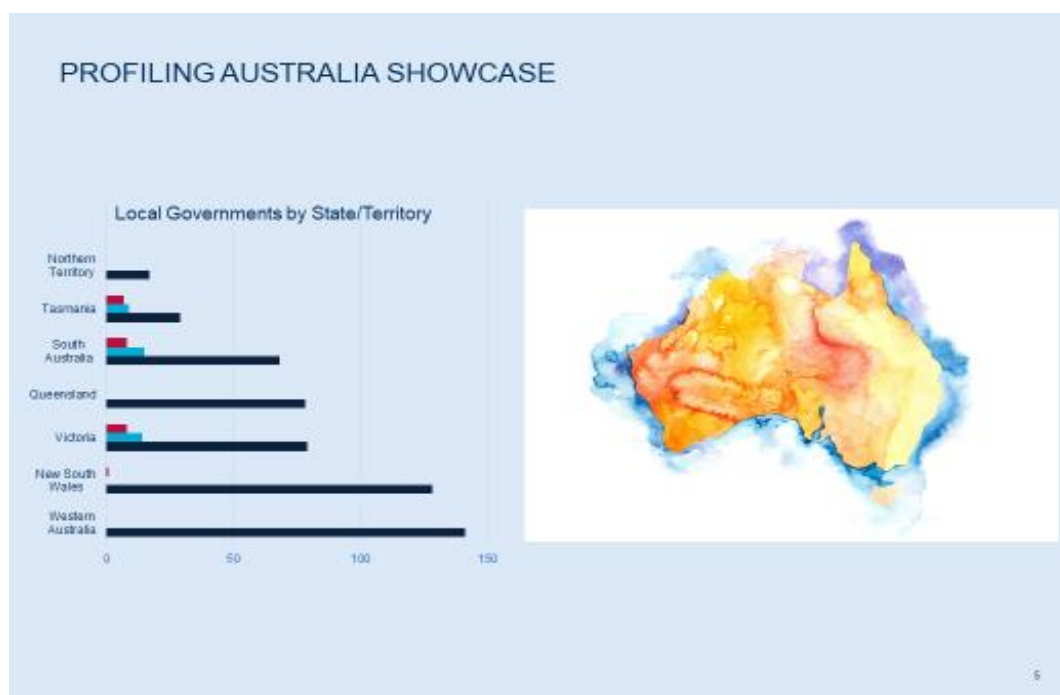
Individual scores, by participant, are captured via Qualtrics, using online voting. Participants are encouraged to join in group discussion, make their own observations for each question. As the result of participating in the workshop, local information/scores are collected and returned in the form of data, depicting your council's vulnerability profile. Consisting of 10 essential indicators, vulnerability is measured via the four pillars:

1. Built Environment 2. Natural Environment 3. Social/Community 4. Financial

NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT VULNERABILITY PROGRAM SHOWCASE

The NLGVP in partnership with the relevant State “Mutuals” as sponsor and invited councils, has initiated a Showcase (to be completed by July 2023) designed to demonstrate the layers of value of the NLGVP for local, state and national governments from the creation of new data in the form of vulnerability profiles - scalable for a council, state, region and nationally.

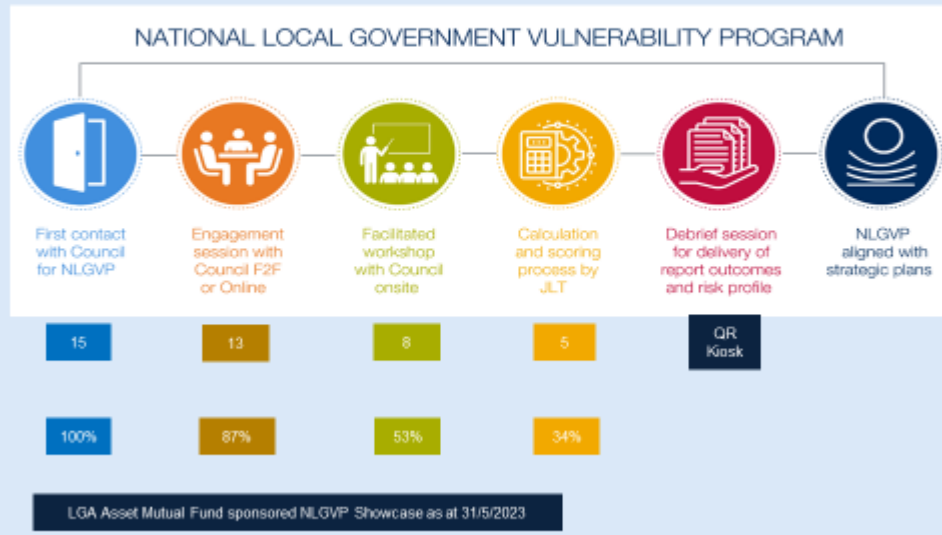
40 councils selected across South Australia (15), Victoria (14) and Tasmania (9) have been invited to participate in the Showcase which is currently being rolled out methodically across the three States.



South Australia NLGVP Showcase

The South Australian showcase includes 15 councils that represent a cross section of councils by demographic and includes:

City of Holdfast Bay	Adelaide Plains Council
City of Mitcham	Mid Murray District Council
City of Mt Gambier	Renmark Paringa District Council
City of Prospect	Kingston SE Council
City of Salisbury	Coorong District Council
City of Victor Harbor	Peterborough District Council
City of Whyalla	Lower Eyre Peninsula Council
Town of Gawler	Alexandrina Council



THE PROCESS

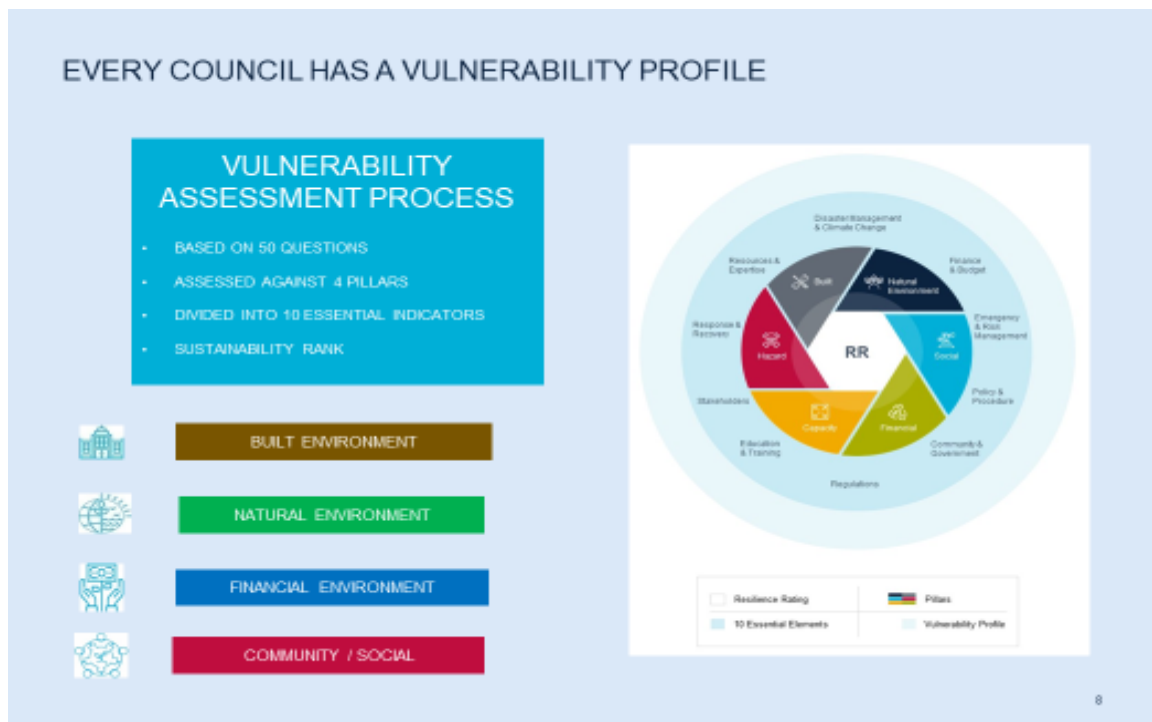
The NLGVP is a 6 step process, as set out below, with the third step (facilitated workshop) being the most pivotal.



During the workshop council participants (CEO, General Manager, Executive Management Team and any other council (selected) officer influential in implementing council’s strategic plan, engage in a 50 question on-line survey via Qualtrics.

The scores representing participants’ response to each question are turned into data to build vulnerability profiles to align with the council’s strategic plan. The vulnerability profile identifies the impact on local communities of a natural hazard event and the potential for the event to escalate into a “disaster”. The vulnerability profile identifies where resources and initiatives to support capacity and capability are best allocated and to ensure disaster risk mitigation investment decisions are fully informed.

Considerations during the vulnerability survey workshop take into account Council’s Strategic Plan, Community Plan, Environmental and Climate Change/Adaptation, Emergency Management Response policy/processes and maturity of the council’s risk reduction framework.

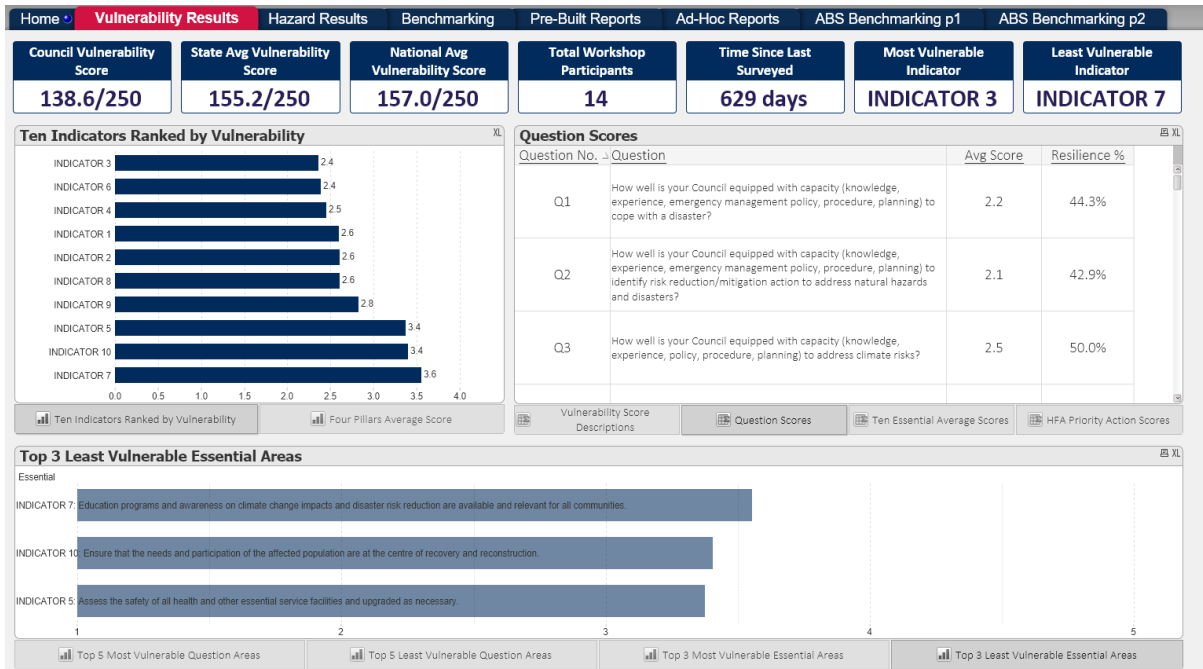


DATA TO BUILD VULNERABILITY PROFILES LOCAL, REGION, STATE, NATIONALLY

Delivered locally and consistently using quantitative, qualitative survey data, the NLGVP will create Australia’s vulnerability profile through the lens of local government and will, amongst other values, create a national data platform to enable benchmarking of mitigation investment across council, region, state and nationally. Monitoring and measuring Australia’s vulnerability profile and its change over time will provide a powerful and valuable method for informing future decisions in mitigation investment focussed on building resilience.

Each council’s vulnerability profile is delivered back in the form of data via the NLGVP QR Kiosk – a secure, discrete portal that will house councils’ NLGVP information and data. Councils are able to do their own analyse of their vulnerability scores and outcomes with the assistance of the analytic tool Qlikview embedded in the QR Kiosk.

Example of their profile information and analysis each council will receive via the QR Kiosk:
 Councils receive their results in the form of data able to be analysed to assess operational risk reduction frameworks aligned with strategic plans and budgets.

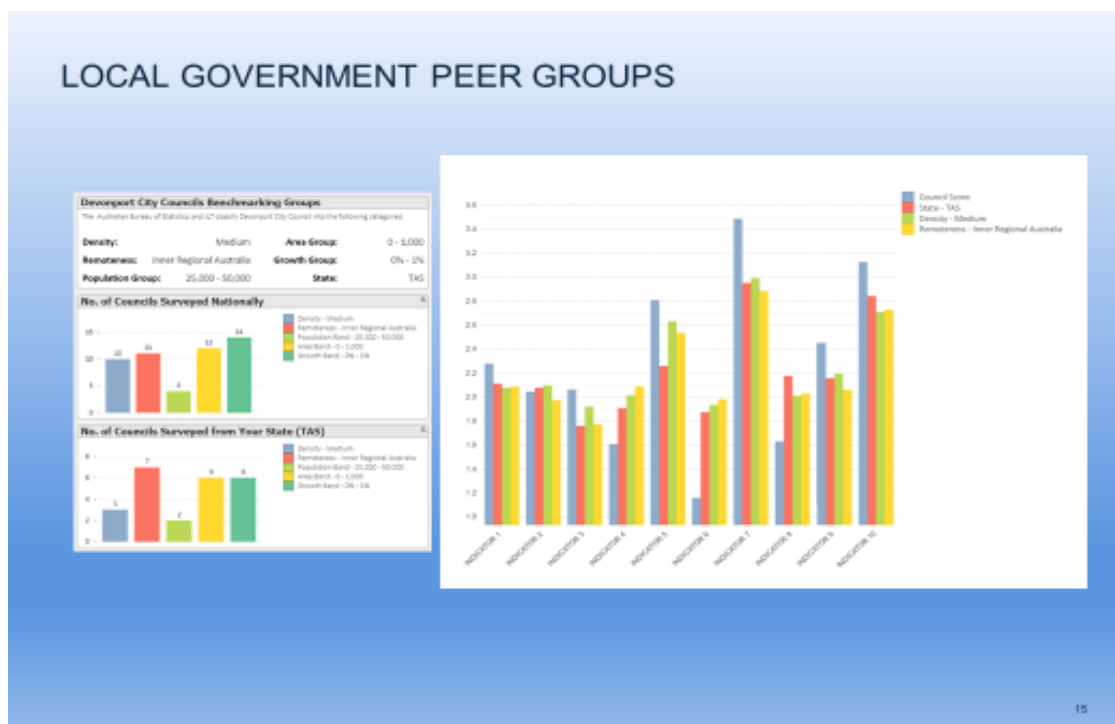


Example of the different levels of analysis a council can do in their secure QR Kiosk using Qlikview:
 Vulnerability profiles are built around the 4 pillars of vulnerability (Built, Natural, Social/Community, Financial) aligned with the 10 essential indicators. Every council has a vulnerability profile.



The vulnerability profile data is calculated by combining council specific results from their vulnerability survey and hazard assessment with demographic information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and council annual, strategic reports. The aim of the NLGVP scoring system is to provide:

- an effective yet simple way to compare councils (nationally) by a harmonised benchmark;
- strategic direction to engage and lead its community to adapt and recover from natural hazard events to build “resilience”;
- informed decision making for risk mitigation investment to reduce shocks, stresses of a natural hazard (disaster) event;
- bench-mark tool to measure and monitor the value of investment into disaster risk mitigation locally, regionally, by state/territory and nationally.



A ROADMAP FOR EVERY COUNCIL

Engaging with the NLGVP, every council will have vulnerability risk profiling information to inform strategic, business planning and budget processes by establishing a consistent baseline to identify vulnerable environments (built, natural, social/community, financial), adopt policy, plan actions, budget, invest, measure and monitor maturity of resilience.

By participating in the NLGVP through a multi-stakeholder interactive consultation process, local government can use evidence based new data to make better informed decisions, advocate for priority setting budget allocations and present funding submissions backed by critical evidence.

With a lens on capacity and capability to mitigate the impacts and costs of natural disasters within the council, region, by state/territory and nationally, local community expectations and needs will be realised. The NLGVP process once integrated into each council’s strategic plan and risk reduction framework becomes the roadmap for building resilience – recognising “resilience” is a journey, not a destination.

THINK DIFFERENT, THINK STRATEGIC



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The National Local Government Vulnerability Program is designed to provide a framework for enabling local government (on a consistent, national basis) to embed in the statutory strategic planning process, risk measures to support investment in mitigation - that are designed around the vulnerability profile of each council.

JLT PS' experience with the public sector and in product innovation, create risk solutions for stronger local, state and federal governments collaboration to build capacity, capability and enable more resilient communities for the future.

In accord with the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements report and recommendations (*Chapter 4*) the NLGVP responds to the need for all levels of government to prioritise the implementation of data harmonisation, and national data standards, create common information platforms and share, to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.

Good decision making needs to be based on good information. Decision-making for national coordination of disaster management requires knowledge, data and information to be shared, consistent and up to date. Decision-making extends well beyond the immediate crisis or operational phases of a disaster.

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