

Indian Ocean Dialogue

Opportunities for improvement in Regional Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief Arrangements

Subtitle

Campbell Darby DSC AM

➤ Seminar Questions

What are the key HADR challenges in the region?

What are the current HADR cooperation arrangements in the region? Is there a need for a more formalised HADR agreement in the region?

What role can IORA play in such arrangements

Scope

- Focus on Natural Disasters
- Aim is a 'primer' for later discussion
- Broad regional perspective on interaction rather than individual nations
- Highlight some key challenges and areas for improvement
- Personal perspective only – not an Australian Government view

Diverse and Challenging Region

- Challenging risk profile
- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Capacity and capability variances
- Supporting infrastructure
- Distances
- The reality is that disasters will occur – and we will have to respond

Challenges

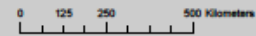
- Prevention and planning
- Processes for coordination, information gathering and information sharing
- Underlying competitiveness for profile or power in responding to disasters
- People (and personalities)

All these issues inter-related.

And in most cases they are neither new or unique – learn from others



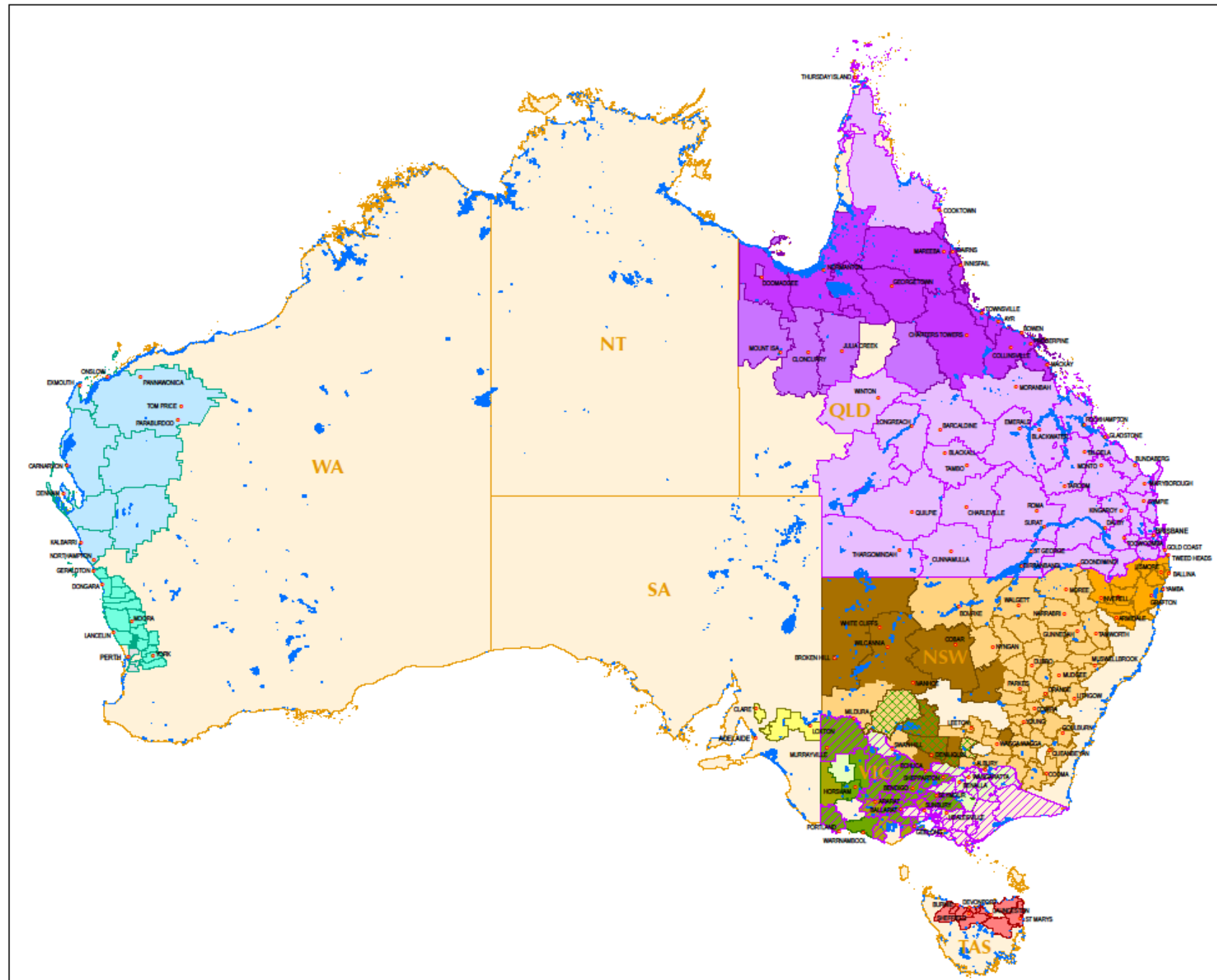
Australian Local Government Areas
Designated for NDRRA Assistance
November 2010 - February 2011



Disaster Declaration	LGA Population
SA	4 LGAs 51,811
QLD	63 LGAs 4,412,916
VIC	76 LGAs 5,399,759
NSW	77 LGAs 1,077,144
WA	28 LGAs 392,238
TAS	11 LGAs 165,300
Total	11,499,168

Population figures represent the total population of all Local Government Areas (LGAs) that may be eligible for a range of Commonwealth assistance. The total population indicates the maximum number of people who may receive assistance. However in many LGAs the final number of people impacted may represent a smaller proportion of the total LGA population.

This map shows administrative areas and estimated (Population figures sourced from ABS' Estimated Resident Population as at June 30 2009.) (Local Government boundaries sourced from ABS Local Government Area ASGC Ed 2010.)



• Township
 SA Severe weather 7-8 December 2010
 WA Floods from 15 December 2010
 WA Bushfires from 5 February 2011
 WA Thunderstorms from 29 January 2011
 WA Combined Thunderstorms from 29 Jan 2011 and Bushfires from 5 Feb 2011
 VIC Floods from 29 Nov - Dec 2010
 VIC Floods January 2011
 VIC Combined Flood 29 Nov 2010 - Jan 2011
 VIC Floods and Storms from 4 - 6 Feb 2011
 NSW Floods November 2010 - December 2010
 NSW Floods from 26 Dec 2010 - Jan 2011
 NSW Combined Floods from Nov 2010 - Jan 2011
 NSW Floods and Storms from 4 - 6 Feb 2011
 QLD Floods Nov 2010 - Jan 2011
 QLD Tropical Cyclone Yasi Feb 2011
 QLD Combined Floods Nov 2010 - Jan 2011 and TC Yasi Feb 2011
 TAS Flood January 2011
 Estimated extent of surface water at January 18 2011 derived from MODIS satellite observations.

The MODIS 16 day composite imagery was acquired between 3 - 18 January 2011. The imagery has a 500 metre spatial resolution. The composite nature of this imagery means that this flood extent represents areas that were inundated at some point during the 16 day interval. 16 day composites are typically cloud free, however if cloud has been present for the entire 16 day period there will be areas of no-data. The extents are derived using an automated water detection algorithm. The footprint includes areas that are completely inundated or partially inundated.



Processes

- Coordination
 - Corraling and directing the inbound support
 - Speed and volume doesn't equal effectiveness
- Information
 - Predictive/warning, needs assessment, sharing of data
- Using (and sharing technology)
- Utilise all forms of media

“The most persistent systemic problem with big international aid efforts . . . is that no one is in charge.”

— “Organizing Armageddon”, Vince Beiser, April 19, 2010, Wired Magazine



A dramatic development here at the Beaconsfield mine in Tasmania. The sheer weight of the media crush and their cheque books has caused a massive subsidence. Will this impact the rescue mission below? Stay tuned..

Wisnolson
+ MAY '06

Competitive Tensions

- Understanding national aims and sensitivities – on both sides (the sending nation and receiving nation)
- NGOs - They need to maintain a level of profile
- Military capability and sensitivities
- Role clarity - identifying and utilising complementary Military, Civilian, NGO and Private sector capabilities

People and Personalities

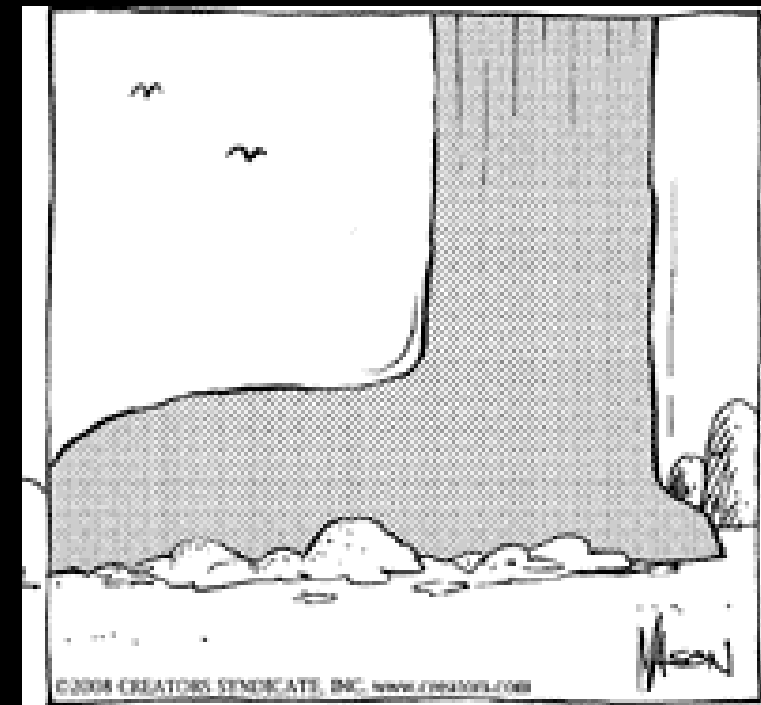
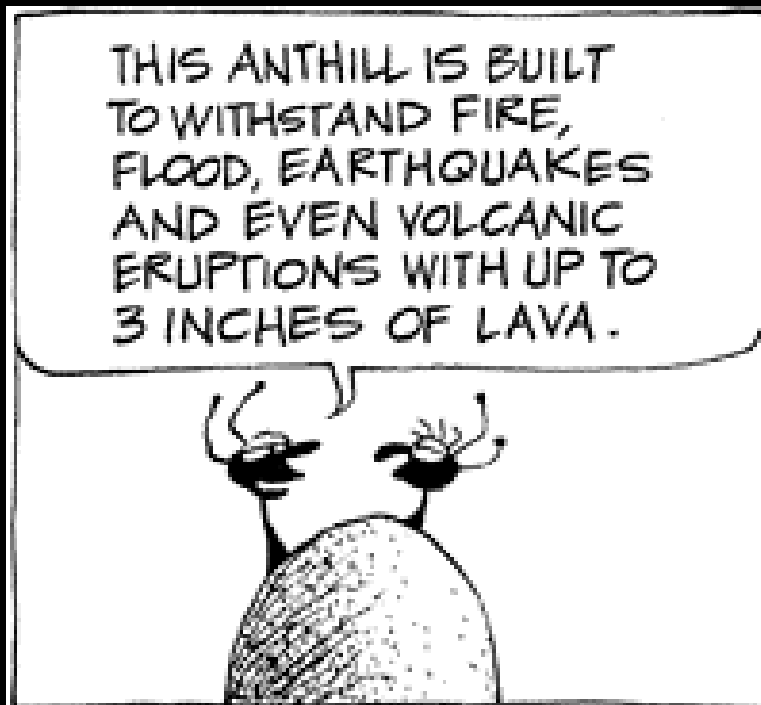
- Building trusting relationships
- Build a cohort of like minded HADR specialists
- Use Military to Military ties – HADR focussed military activities to minimise sensitivity
- Relationships (at all levels) are key to effective responses

Where can we improve

- Can we better define military, civilian and NGO roles in responding to crises – leveraging off their respective strengths ?
- Where and how can we better employ technology ?
- Do we have single points of contact and understand the pathways to providing support?
- Relationships are key - How can we strengthen these relationships and build a cohort of like-minded professionals ?
- Are there ways to enhance information gathering and sharing?

Disasters are inevitable – how we respond will be our measure

“The importance of understanding risks and planning appropriately”



DISCUSSION

➤ Seminar Questions

What are the key HADR challenges in the region?

What are the current HADR cooperation arrangements in the region? Is there a need for a more formalised HADR agreement in the region?

What role can IORA play in such arrangements