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Adelaide Plains Council  
Barunga West Council  
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council  
Copper Coast Council  
District Council of Mount Remarkable  
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton  
District Council of Peterborough  
Light Regional Council  
Northern Areas Council  
Port Pirie Regional Council  
Regional Council of Goyder  
The Barossa Council  
The Flinders Ranges Council  
Wakefield Regional Council  
Yorke Peninsula Council

**Handbook and website released to assist communities prepare for disasters and emergencies.**

The ability of communities to bounce back after a disaster is significantly increased by being aware of threats, active planning and preparation and being involved in local networks and community disaster or emergency management arrangements – including as volunteers.

To assist the Legatus Group have released a valuable handbook on their specific community disaster preparedness website <https://communitydisasterprep.com.au/>

Mayor Rodney Reid the Chairman of the Legatus Group says; “People are sometimes surprised that Local Government isn’t a ‘first responder’ for individuals in distress. That’s not their role. Councils do a number of activities that prevent or minimise the impact of an emergency: land use planning, stormwater management, flood mitigation works, land management, fire prevention, building safety, road and traffic management, waste management, events and public health programs.”

Following input from a series of workshops held across the Northern and Yorke region of SA facilitated by Kristine Peters the handbook has practical approaches and case studies.

When a disaster hits, the first help often comes from neighbours and the local community. Government and government services can’t be there as quickly or provide immediate support. Communities have a number of essential roles including forward planning and preparation to make sure everyone knows what to do and has the right training. Plus, the need to join SES, CFS, SA Ambulance and Service groups so that there are enough volunteers to respond to incidents.

Communities that are prepared for disaster are generally better equipped to cope and rebound. In the past, events such as drought and bushfire were considered a normal part of rural life, however the increasing severity and complexity of events – combined with more fragmented societies, volatile climate, an increased focus on wellbeing, fewer people volunteering, and information overload – means that Councils and their communities need a simple way to plan and respond to disasters. This handbook and website provide that opportunity.

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For further information contact Simon Millcock Legatus Group CEO 0407819000