

[REDACTED]

Dear Anna,

I refer to the question taken on notice by me from The Hon. Stephen Lawrence highlighted on page 35 of the attached transcript.

The answer to the question is as follows:

“In the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP), the Executive Summary includes a section on ‘Understanding disaster risk’ which states:

*Natural events can become hazards when there is a potential negative impact, such as loss of life or economic or environmental damage. A disaster occurs when these natural hazard events significantly affect people, homes, livelihoods, and assets of value, and when the impact of hazards exceed a community’s ability to avoid, cope or recover from them.<sup>2</sup>*

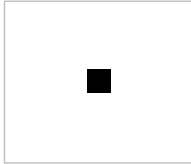
*Disaster risk results from the combination of the hazard, and the exposure and vulnerability of people and assets to that hazard. There is often little we can do about the hazard itself. Disaster risk can be reduced by limiting the exposure of people, homes and infrastructure to hazards, or increasing their resilience, making them less vulnerable to disaster impacts.*

Therefore, the SDMP recognises that the exposure and vulnerability of people and assets to a hazard increases disaster risk, which can occur due to inappropriate land use through say the development of land impacted by flooding. This broader view of disaster risk beyond a ‘natural disaster’ definition should also be included in the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act, as the foundation legislation that underpins the SDMP.”

I trust this answer the question; however, if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andrew



**Andrew Beswick**

Director City Infrastructure | Executive Office City Infrastructure | City of Coffs Harbour

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City of Coffs Harbour would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Gumbaynggirr people, who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to a future with reconciliation and renewal at its heart.

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