Photo courtesy: Bureau of Meteorology.

Glossary

The following non–hazard specific definitions are used in this report. The definitions from the risk management standard AS/NZS 4360:2004 have been used, except where other sources provide a more comprehensive definition, or a definition is not provided in the standard.

Consequence refers to the outcome or impact of an event and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively. There can be more than one consequence from one event (AS/NZS 4360:2004). In this context, consequences are generally described as the effects on persons, society, the environment and the economy.

Elements at risk refers to the population, buildings and civil engineering works, economic activities, public services and infrastructure, etc. exposed to sources of risk (EMA 2004).

Event refers to the occurrence of a particular set of circumstances. The event can be certain or uncertain. The event can be a single occurrence or a series of occurrences (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Exposure refers to the elements at risk which are subject to the impact of a hazard event (Middelmann and others 2005).

Frequency is a measure of likelihood expressed as the number of occurrences of an event in a given time (EMA 1998).

Hazard is a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss. It may also be referred to as a potential or existing condition that may cause harm to people or damage to property or the environment (EMA 1998).

Likelihood is used as a general description of probability or frequency. It can be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Loss refers to any negative consequence or adverse effect, financial or otherwise (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Mitigation refers to the measures taken in advance of, or after, a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment (COAG 2004).

Natural disaster refers to a serious disruption to a community or region caused by the impact of a naturally occurring rapid onset event that threatens or causes death, injury or damage to property or the environment and which requires significant and coordinated

multi-agency and community response. Such serious disruption can be caused by any one, or a combination, of the following natural hazards: bushfire; earthquake; flood; storm; cyclone; storm surge; landslide; tsunami; meteorite strike; or tornado (COAG 2004).

Risk refers to the chance of something happening that will have an impact on objectives. A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. Risk is measured in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event and their likelihood (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk analysis refers to the systematic process to understand the nature of and to deduce the level of risk. It provides the basis for risk evaluation and decisions about risk treatment (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk assessment refers to the overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk evaluation refers to the process of comparing the level of risk against risk criteria. Risk evaluation assists in decisions about risk treatment (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk management process refers to the systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of communicating, establishing the context, identifying, analysing, evaluation, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk reduction refers to the actions taken to lessen the likelihood, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Risk treatment refers to the process of selection and implementation of measures to modify risk. The term 'risk treatment' is sometimes used for the measures themselves. Risk treatment measures can include avoiding, modifying, sharing or retaining risk (AS/NZS 4360:2004).

Vulnerability is the degree of susceptibility and resilience of the community and environment to hazards (COAG 2004).

Photo courtesy: Will Barton Photography.