

From territorial and burnt out to navigating the tensions together

An empirical study of the organising of
collaborative multi-agency community
recovery work

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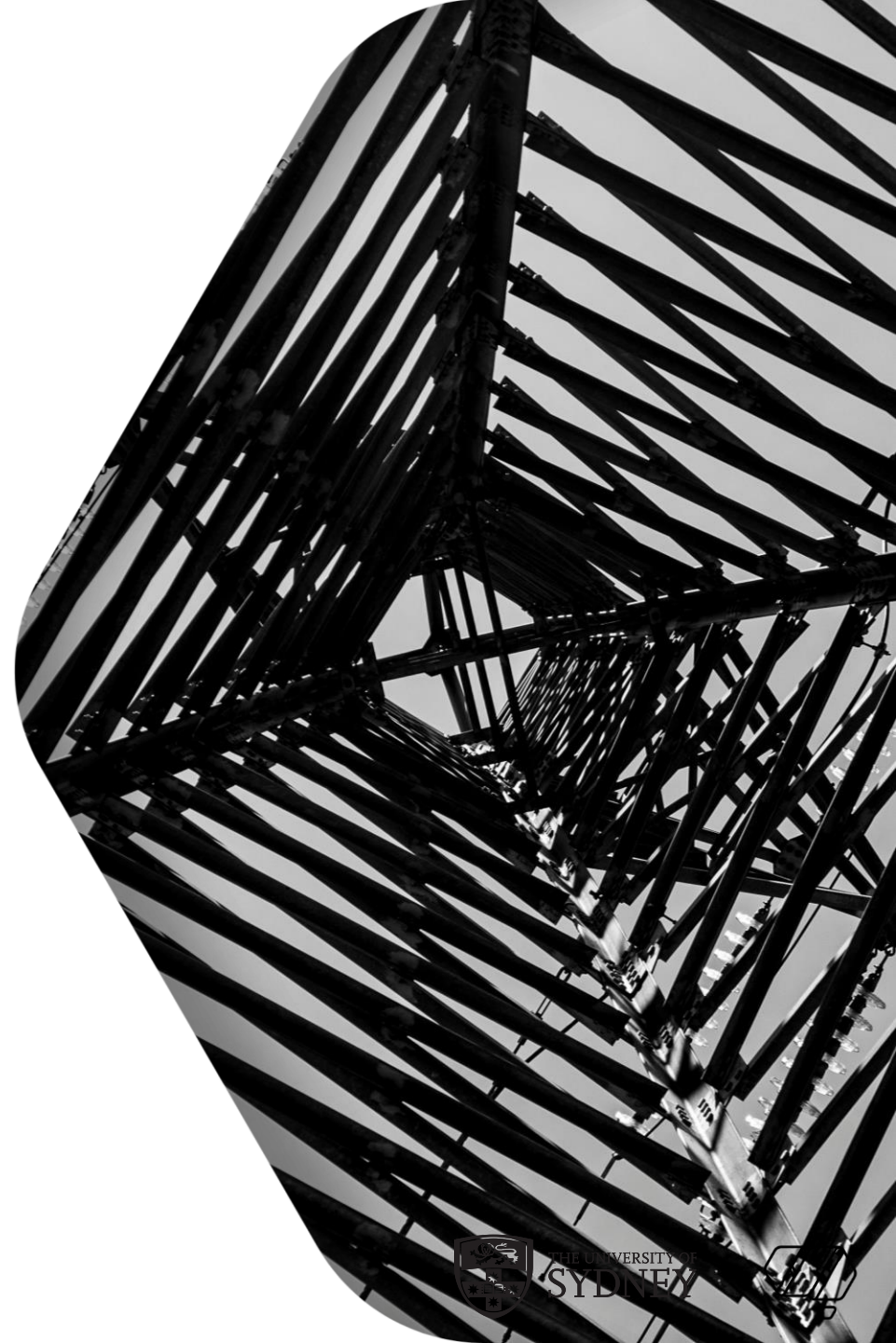
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How might collaborative work between agencies be better enabled in community recovery in the future?



The Committee



The Network



Working collaboratively to transform tensions in complex systems

BENEFITS

- Shared resources and skills.
- Reduced duplication of services.
- Together identified gaps in geographic or community coverage.
- Supported each other through shared workloads and collaborative initiatives.

Transforming systemic and relational tensions:

- Enabled a different way of working – non-competitive
- Deepened relational trust
- Provided support for each other as peers in this work
- On the job learning from each other and engagement in reflexive practice

A study of approaches to multi-agency organising that not only sustain workers, but also build collective adaptive capabilities into the community recovery workforce while doing the work.



One of three critical leverage points for enhanced collaboration and effectiveness for multi-stakeholder governance in the future:



Second, mindset shifts that value community knowledge and contributions, and improved practice through enhancing skills in community development and community-led recovery in disaster and climate change practitioners ”

Rebecca McNaught et al, 2024
Innovation and deadlock in governing disasters and climate change collaboratively - Lessons from the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, Australia



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...rigidity traps need to be overcome by creating appropriate forums through which governance and management strategies might be co-produced by bringing different forms of expertise into engagement with one another.”

“Psychosocial support available on a needs basis that extends further into the rebuilding/recovery process... requires a positioning of psychosocial support as a cornerstone of disaster governance and management in both policy and practice”

Christine Erikson, 2025

From rigidity traps towards reparative disaster governance and management

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