Current issues in Disaster Management

A management perspective

Gerry FitzGerald
Current Issues: The Management challenge

- The challenge we often face is to find how we can convert what we know we need to do into action.

- This is made even more difficult when we don’t know or understand what needs to be done.
The management challenge:

- The risk is rare that anything will happen but if it does there will be a Royal Commission into how it was managed and all of our actions will be analysed in detail.
The impediments to action.

- Too much to do: Too busy (Not another program)
- Lack of motivation
- Lack of relevance
- Lots of opinions (lots of experts) but not agreement
- Unclear strategic direction
- Lack of support and resources (financial and other)
- Lack of skills in management
The keys to success

- Maintain perspective and relevance
- Engage the leaders (formal and informal)
- Engage the stakeholders through consultation and clarity of vision and direction
- Identify and manage the tasks
- Assign responsibility; monitor and follow up
- Collaborate and coordinate activity
Maintain perspective and relevance:

- What are the risks to the local community
- Integrate into normal activity
- Keep it simple
Engage the stakeholders and leaders

- Identify those with influence
- Engage them in the solution
- Seek their support
- Motivate them with case studies and identified accountability
Engage the media and the public

- Inform and lead
- Form alliances
- Maintain a balance
Need a clear planning and organisational framework

- Simple consistent planning framework
- Formalise the advisory and response structures
- Have regular meetings to ensure consultation and ongoing commitment
Manage the tasks:

- Identify the tasks, assign responsibility and resources and follow up.
- Have a few wins.
How do you shear a paddock full of sheep?

One at a time!
The management perspective

Remembers the CPR of management

- Consistency
- Persistency
- Resilience