



- Key Topics:
- communication [2]
  - communities [3]
  - tsunami [4]

Community understanding of the tsunami risk and warnings systems in Australian communities [5]  
This project aimed to better understand the factors that shape community resilience to tsunami in Australia, and effective tsunami warning risk communication. The research phase is now completed. The need for this work derived from the fact that the Australian coastline faces some 8,000km of active tectonic plate boundary capable of generating a tsunami that could reach Australia in two to four hours. Recognition of this risk led to the development of the Australian Tsunami Warning System.  
The findings of the project have been presented to the Australian Tsunami Advisory Group and the NSW SES, and will be used to inform the development and implementation of a community engagement strategy that can be used by end-user agencies to develop community warning and response strategies.

Project: detail Notabs

Research team

Research leader

[6]



**Prof David Johnston**  
[6]  
RESEARCH LEADER



MASSEY UNIVERSITY  
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Research team

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**Prof Douglas Paton**  
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RESEARCH TEAM



[9]

End User representatives

[10]



**Andrew Richards**  
[10]  
END-USER



[11]

Description

This project aimed to better understand the factors that shape community resilience to tsunami in Australia, and effective tsunami warning risk communication. The research phase is now completed. The need for this work derived from the fact that the Australian coastline faces some 8,000km of active tectonic plate boundary capable of generating a tsunami that could reach Australia in two to four hours. Recognition of this risk led to the development of the Australian Tsunami Warning System.

The exposure of coastal areas and short lead times makes it important that communities exposed to tsunami threat accept their risk and act on this to increase their response capability. Interviews in communities in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia identified diverse views on what people should be warned of, and how to warn them. Views on what people should be warned of include long term issues (problems evacuating, long term impact on infrastructure, resourcing) and immediate actions (knowing one’s evacuation route). A need to adapt warnings to specific geographical localities and to enhance community readiness was also identified.

The findings of the project have been presented to the Australian Tsunami Advisory Group and the NSW SES, and will be used to inform the development and implementation of a community engagement strategy that can be used by end-user agencies to develop community warning and response strategies.

[Read the final report here.](#) [12]

Related News



CRC researchers recognised as science leaders  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, HYDROLOGY

[13]



19 AUG 2019

Collaboration is key for communications cluster success  
CLIMATE CHANGE, COMMUNICATION

[14]



17 MAR 2017

New online - March 2017

[15]

# Australian Journal of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Volume 32, No. 1, January 2017  
ISSN: 1324-1540



AJEM features disaster reduction forum  
RESILIENCE, SEVERE WEATHER

31 JAN 2017

[16]



Quick science in videos  
COMMUNICATION, DECISION MAKING

15 OCT 2015

[17]





09 FEB 2015

Newsletter - Communications and warnings cluster  
COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITIES

[18]

Publications

Year	Type	Citation
2017	Journal Article	Paton, D. [8], Johnston, D. [6] & Rossiter, K. [19] <a href="#">Community Understanding of Tsunami Risk and Warnings Systems in Australia</a> [20]. <i>Australian Journal of Emergency Management</i> <b>32</b> , (2017). Google Scholar
2017	Report	Paton, D. [8], Johnston, D. [6] & Rossiter, K. [19] <a href="#">Community understanding of tsunami risk and warnings systems in Australia: final project report 2017</a> [12]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017).
2016	Journal Article	Johnston, D. [6] <i>et al.</i> <a href="#">Towards tsunami-safer schools in the Wellington region of New Zealand: evaluating drills and awareness programs</a> [27]. <i>Australian Journal of Emergency Management</i> <b>31</b> , (2016).
2015	Report	Paton, D. [8] & Johnston, D. [6] <a href="#">Community understanding of the tsunami risk and warnings systems in Australia: Annual project report 2014-2015</a> [31]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2015).

Presentations & Resources

DATE	[35]	TITLE	[36]	DOWNLOAD	KEY TOPICS
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10 Apr 2015		Community Understanding of Tsunami Risk 2015 NSW RAF Presentation [44]		845.89 KB	[45] (845.89 KB) [3], tsunami [4], warr [4]
15 Sep 2015		Communications and Warnings [47]		0 bytes	[48] (0 bytes) [2], multi-hazard [4]
21 Oct 2015		Turning warnings into action [50]		236.32 KB	[51] (236.32 KB) [2], tsunami [4], warr [4]
27 Feb 2017		Tsunami preparedness and warnings [52]		1.08 MB	[53] (1.08 MB) [3], tsunami [4], warr [4]

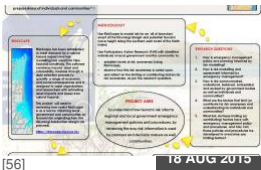
Posters



Community Understanding of the Tsunami Risk and Warning Systems in Australian Communities

[54]  
COMMUNITIES [3], RESILIENCE [55]

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[56]  
COMMUNICATION [2], COMMUNITIES [3]

A tsunami generated by an earthquake within the Hikurangi Subduction Margin is probably a candidate for the...

## Linked Projects

**Effective risk and warning communication during natural hazards**  
[57]

COMMUNICATION AND WARNINGS [58]

Prof Vivienne Tippet  
Queensland University of Technology [59]



[59]

**Improving the role of hazard communications in increasing residents' preparedness and response planning**  
[60]

COMMUNICATION AND WARNINGS [58]

Dr Ilona McNeill  
University of Melbourne [61]



[61]

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