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**HAZARDS**CRC

# Adoption of a strengths-based approach to address catastrophic disasters

**ANDREW GISSING, MICHAEL EBURN**  
Risk Frontiers  
Macquarie University  
Australian National University

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# INTRODUCTION



Darwin 1974

# HOW DO WE DEFINE CATASTROPHIC?

capability economy **Overwhelming** major catastrophic response  
community large **beyond** capacity **event**  
impact community **impact** terms state scale disaster manage  
systems resources

# PERCEPTION OF THE NEED

- There is recognition of the conversation occurring nationally about catastrophic disasters
- Not everyone shares deep concerns. Barriers include:
  - Confidence in existing arrangements
  - Perceived low probability of catastrophes
  - No previous history of catastrophes
  - Perception that there isn't much that can be done
  - Response orientated culture
  - Limited conceptualisation of catastrophe

# BEYOND CONCEPTUALISATION

Type of hazard and type of consequences

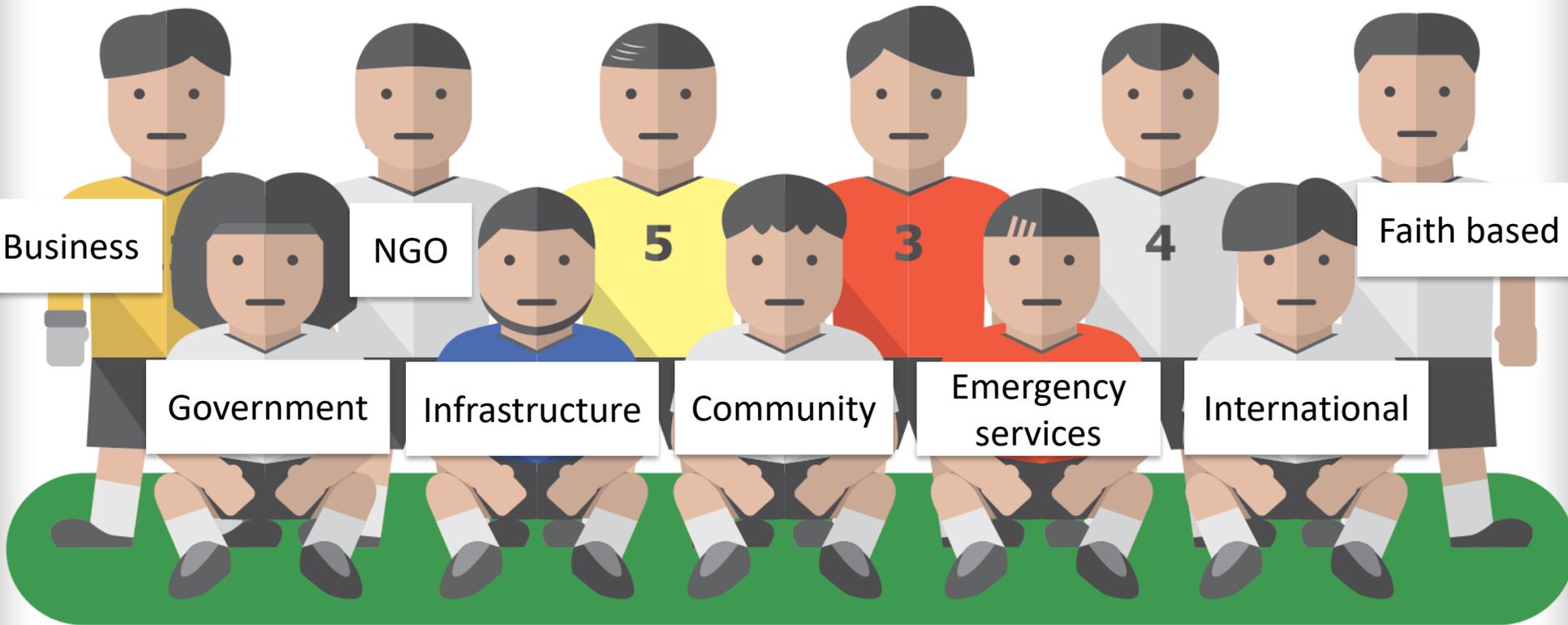


Size and complexity

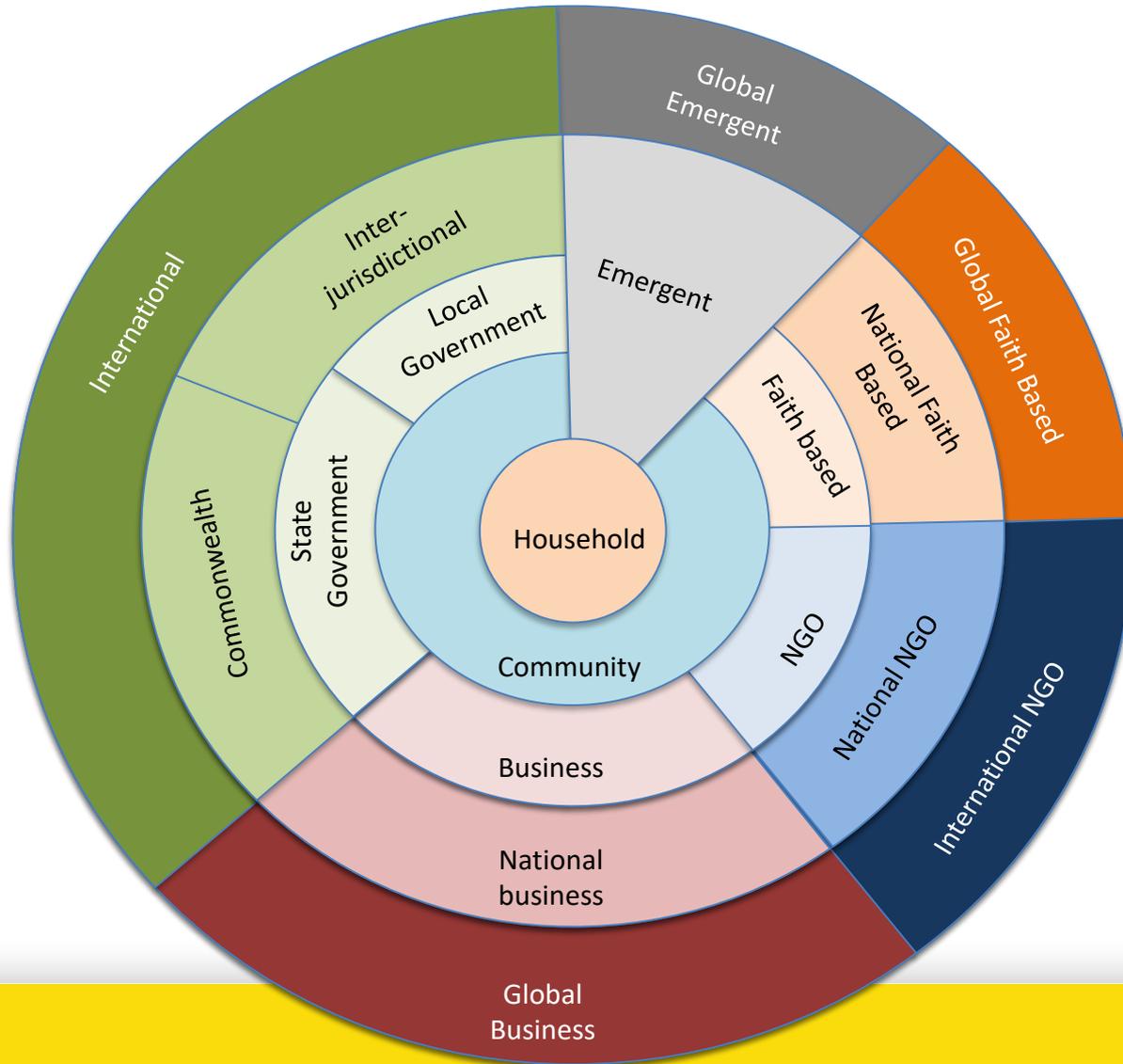
# NEED TO WORK TOGETHER

- No standing army
- Relationships are considered key
- There are turf wars
- 7 different versions of EM
- Planning lacks diversity

# STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH



# NATION-WIDE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH



# WHAT GOOD PLANNING NEEDS TO BE

- Concise
- Principles based
- Simple to interpret
- Strategic
- Flexible
- Adaptable
- Contemporary
- Provides an authorising environment

# THE GENERIC CATASTROPHE PLAN

- Key priorities
- Rapid appreciation
- Resource acquisition and integration
  - Inter-state
  - Business
  - NGO
  - Commonwealth
  - International
- Logistics
- National coordination
- State coordination
- Public messaging
  - State
  - National
- Special provisions
- Business continuity
- Roles and responsibilities

# SUMMARY

- There are barriers to considering catastrophe risks
- Some issues could be as much culturally based as they are structural or systems based
- Need to bring a diversity of stakeholders together
- Could a move towards a nationwide strengths based approach be the best option?

Please contact us:  
[andrew.gissing@riskfrontiers.com](mailto:andrew.gissing@riskfrontiers.com)



# CURRENT PLANNING

- Tend to plan for routine
- Tend to plan for the last big disaster
- Planning for compliance
- Tend not to exercise for catastrophic
- There is limited knowledge of how to plan
- Planning lacks diversity

# NEXT STEPS

- Consideration of draft benchmarking framework
- Understanding possible national coordination frameworks
- Integration of business sector and NGOs
- Consideration of compounding events

