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What is urban resilience?

- Urban resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience
- Resilience in Sydney is about identifying the most significant issues that will impact our city and tackling these first
- Chronic stresses weaken the fabric of a city on an ongoing or cyclical basis. Examples include increasing demand on health services, diminishing social cohesion, loss of housing affordability, increasing chronic illnesses and lack of transport diversity
- Acute shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten a city. Examples include heatwaves, storms, bushfires, failure of large financial institutions, infrastructure failures and terror attacks
- In 2015, representatives from almost all of Sydney's 41 councils agreed to join forces to participate in the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation
- 100RC is a global initiative that aims to help cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges of the 21st century
- 100RC encourages the view that resilience isn't just limited to how cities respond to shocks such as earthquakes, fires and floods – but also the longer term stresses
- Resilient Sydney is a metropolitan-scale program and involves all the local councils of Sydney. It extends to the Hawkesbury River in the north, includes the Blue Mountains in the west and as far south as Sutherland and Woolondilly Shire
- The Resilient Sydney Office is hosted by the City of Sydney
- Each Council has nominated a resilience ambassador to engage with the program, meet with other council ambassadors, exchange ideas and share knowledge across Sydney
- Sydney received funding from the 100RC program to employ experienced sustainability and property expert Beck Dawson as Sydney's Chief Resilience Officer and a strategy partner to prepare a Preliminary Resilience Assessment and a Resilient Sydney Strategy
- Cities from five continents, including Addis Ababa, Byblos, Boston, Juarez, London, New York, Paris, Singapore, Surat and Vancouver are participating in the program

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