

COPRRRA PULSE

Recent Research, Policy & News on Planned Relocation

The COPRRRA Pulse brings together the latest news, research, policy developments and events relevant to planned relocation, retreat, and community resilience in Australia and globally.



COPRRRA

Community of Practice on
Relocation, Retreat, and
Resilience in Australia

Research & Policy Developments on (and related to) Planned Relocation

How relocation impacts wellbeing over time and across population groups: The case of Grantham, Australia

Piggott-McKellar, Bergin & Pearson (2026)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2025.100781>

This study explores long-term wellbeing outcomes following Grantham's government supported land-swap relocation. While relocation improved physical safety for participating households, social fragmentation, infrastructure gaps, and perceived inequities contributed to ongoing emotional and psychological challenges across both relocated and non-relocated residents. Findings highlight the need to address social cohesion and service access alongside risk reduction in relocation planning.

Towards an agonistic approach to planned retreat: fear, anger, and hope in the Central Coast, Australia

Krellar (2026)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-025-02498-3>

This qualitative study examines community responses to proposed planned retreat in coastal NSW, finding that fear, anger and concerns about fairness, particularly around property values and insurance, dominated public debate and stalled policy progress. The author argues that planning processes should explicitly engage with competing emotions and conflict ("agonistic" approaches) to better support constructive deliberation about retreat.

A 'last resort': A decade of addressing gaps in knowledge, guidance and policies on planned relocation

Erica Bower (2026)

https://climatemobility.unsw.edu.au/planned_relocations/index.html

Reflecting on progress since the 2015 Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, this blog traces advances in relocation frameworks and global mapping efforts. Persistent gaps remain around long-term outcomes, financing, and community-led implementation, with implications for future national policy development.

Life after climate-related planned relocation: A review of well-being outcomes

Piggott-McKellar, Pearson & McMichael (2025)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2025.2592262>

A review of 16 empirical relocation cases identifies mixed wellbeing outcomes across health, material, social, and place-based dimensions. Outcomes are shaped by levels of community participation, proximity between origin and destination sites, and exposure to risk in new locations. Impacts are unevenly distributed within communities, reinforcing the importance of locally led decision-making processes.

Handbook on Climate Mobility

Ahmed & Mallick (Eds.) (2026)

https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-on-climate-mobility-9781035329922.html?srsltid=AfmBOorQnysxYVI56w_NY3JKm_DS3AcRhd_Bqf0oGyh_80Aeto9Cty64

This new global handbook examines how governments and communities are responding to climate driven mobility, including relocation. It highlights policy gaps in legal protections, financing, and terminology, and presents international case studies offering practical guidance for adaptation and resettlement planning.

Resolving Climate-Related Internal Displacement at a Time of Crisis

Walter Kälin (2026)

Researching Disaster Displacement

https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short_pieces/resolving-climate-related-internal-displacement-at-a-time-of-crisis/

This article outlines the growing challenge of protracted climate-related displacement amid funding shortfalls. It calls for stronger multi-year programming, improved humanitarian-development coordination, and investment in durable solutions to address loss and damage linked to displacement.

Planned Relocation & Retreat in the News: Australia

Coastal communities weigh costs and potential retreat as erosion batters SA's Limestone Coast

Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 22 February 2026

Residents and councils on SA's Limestone Coast are raising the alarm about increasing coastal erosion. Communities are considering their options, including retreating from the beachfront in areas with high erosion.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-22/beach-communities-battling-coastal-erosion-costs-south-australia/106349638>

Cooler-climate regions surge as Australians keep leaving capitals

Australian Broker, 19 January 2026

Australians are continuing to swap capital cities for regional centres, with relocations from capitals to regions outpacing moves in the opposite direction by more than one-third (36%), according to the latest Regional Movers Index (RMI).

<https://www.brokernews.com.au/news/breaking-news/coolerclimate-regions-surge-as-australians-keep-leaving-capitals-288770.aspx>

Australians on the move to escape climate extremes: Tasmania favoured

Charles Sturt University, 10 December 2025

A nationwide survey commissioned by a leading Charles Sturt University researcher has found that 22 per cent of Australians who intend to move home in the next 12 months say their decision is influenced by climate change or extreme weather events.

<https://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/australians-on-the-move-to-escape-climate-extremes-tasmania-favoured>

Global Spotlight

Global Spotlight: Coalition on Dignified Climate Relocation

A growing global coalition of frontline leaders, civil society actors, researchers and practitioners advancing rights-based and community-driven relocation. New members welcome.

<https://www.climaterelocation.org>

Contact: For more information about the Community of Practice for Relocation, Retreat and Resilience in Australia (COPRRRA) please contact: Annah Piggott-McKellar a.piggottmckellar@qut.edu.au or Jess Van Son jess.vanson@qut.edu.au or visit COPRRRA.org

Webinars

ANU Climate Update 2026: Adaptation from soil to stars

Includes a presentation on local-level implementation of adaptation plans, housing risk, and emerging retreat considerations.

<https://iced.s.anu.edu.au/news-events/events/anu-climate-update-2026-adaptation-soil-stars>

Film

Floodland

A documentary exploring the lived realities of flood risk and uncertainty in Lismore.

<http://www.floodland.com.au>

