



Recent Research, Policy & News on Planned Relocation – March and April 2026

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.

Planned Relocation & Retreat in the News: Australia

The RLP doesn't pass the pub test: RA's Graham Kennett explains why

Simon Mumford | The Lismore APP | 22 April 2026
NSW's \$100 million Resilient Lands Program has not delivered what the community expected. A key lesson: relocation land should be part of 'business as usual' urban planning, with high-risk population relocation accounted for in standard growth strategies.

<https://lismoreapp.com.au/NewsStory/the-rlp-doesnt-pass-the-pub-test-ras-graham-kennett-explains-why/69e0cec39329c8002d2eca3c>

Plans to move residents off Cocos (Keeling) Islands walked back after backlash

Alistair Bates | ABC | 11 April 2026
The federal government softened a draft recommendation of 'long-term managed retreat' for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, committing to greater community consultation - a live example of the political and community sensitivities surrounding retreat decisions.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-11/long-term-retreat-cocos-keeling-islands-rising-sea-level/106545672>

Planned Relocation & Retreat: Global

Managed retreat in Europe more widespread than previously thought

Carolien Kraan | Deltares | 10 March 2026
A new study identifies 44 managed retreat projects across 11 European countries. Five key factors shape outcomes: compensation offered, timing, community engagement, government leadership, and post-relocation land use.

<https://www.deltares.nl/en/news/managed-retreat-in-europe-more-widespread-than-previously-thought>

Inevitable but Controversial: The Human Side of Retreat

Holcim Foundation Forum 2025
A review of 140 relocation cases worldwide found that rushed, top-down retreats strip people of homes, livelihoods, and communities. Done differently, with communities as partners, retreat can become a catalyst for justice and renewal.

<https://lnkd.in/e9WAIwDt>

Research & Policy Developments

Planned Relocation Policies and Practices: Lessons from Fiji, Bangladesh, and Peru

Dr Adele Thomas | NRDC | 28 April 2026
As climate risks render some places increasingly unlivable, this report draws on international case studies from Fiji, Bangladesh, and Peru to examine how governments can relocate communities in ways that protect people, human rights, and livelihoods.

<https://www.nrdc.org/resources/planned-relocation-policies-and-practices>

Insights From Managed Retreat Projects in Europe

Wolff, Bade & Kraan | Earth's Future | 5 March 2026
Presents a cross-case analysis of 44 European managed retreat cases, identifying common challenges and enabling conditions for more anticipatory and strategically designed retreat initiatives.

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2025EF007012>

Rethinking Planned Relocation as Social Protection in an Era of Increasing Climate Change Risks

Tomy Ncube & Una Murray | IDRP | 12 March 2026
Reconceptualises planned relocation as a form of social assistance capable of delivering durable solutions, arguing failures stem from treating it as short-term disaster response rather than long-term developmental intervention.

<https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/working-papers/rethinking-planned-relocation-as-social-protection-in-an-era-of-increasing-climate-change-risks/>

Best Practice in Climate Change Adaptation

Barnett, Brullo, Boulter & Niles | WIREs Climate Change | 19 March 2026
Proposes seven elements of best practice adaptation: processes that are evidence-based, intentional, well-governed, inclusive, iterative, well-timed, and sustained. A practical resource for adaptation practitioners navigating uncertainty.

<https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wcc.70051>

Climate Change and the Threat of Statelessness

Amr Ezzat Mahmoud Elhaw | Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law | 16 March 2026
Examines the intersection of climate justice, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, with a focus on the threat of statelessness facing climate-affected communities, particularly in the Pacific.

<https://brill.com/view/journals/aphu/aop/article-10.1163-15718158-20262005/article-10.1163-15718158-20262005.xml>

The Oxford Handbook of Internal Displacement (2026)

A landmark publication bringing together 45 contributions by leading researchers and practitioners, providing an essential reference for advancing debates on internal displacement as a vital concern for research and policy.

<https://lnkd.in/er6XMkdJ>



COPRRRA

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

Pacific

New Report: Pacific Guidance on Internal Planned Relocation

Pacific Resilience Partnership | April 2026

A multiagency, region-led resource designed to empower Pacific Island states to develop their own context-specific national guidelines and SOPs. Includes Standard Operating Procedures and a Compendium of Resources bringing together global, regional, and national frameworks, tools, and case studies relevant to planned relocation and climate mobility in the Pacific.

<https://pacificresiliencepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pacific-Guidance-on-Internal-Planned-Relocation.pdf>

Regional Exchange Advances Collective Action on Climate Mobility and Planned Relocation in the Pacific

Platform on Disaster Displacement | 19 March 2026

A three-day regional exchange advanced the Implementation Plan (2025–2030) of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility (PRFCM), opened by Fiji's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua. The exchange emphasised ownership and trust as central to addressing climate mobility as a human security concern.

<https://disasterdisplacement.org/news-events/regional-exchange-advances-collective-action-on-climate-mobility-and-planned-relocation-in-the-pacific/>

Finance & Insurance

Priced Out: Climate Change, Home Insurance, and the People Stuck in the Middle

Changing Climate, Changing Migration Podcast | 24 April 2026

Examines how climate change is making home insurance more expensive and less available as disaster-related losses increase. Rising premiums are pushing some to relocate and forcing others to choose between unaffordable coverage and uninsured risk.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/changing-climate-changing-migration/id1541219961?i=1000763273065>

Report Launch: Impossible Decisions — Community insights into access to affordable insurance in north central Victoria

ARC Justice | Friday 8 May 2026, 11–11:30am AEST

Draws on interviews, a community survey, and on-the-ground insights to document what communities across north central Victoria say about insurance, housing, and disaster recovery — and the harder decisions they are being forced to make.

<https://events.humanitix.com/impossible-decisions-report-launch>

Webinars & Events

Climate Risks for Councils: A Focus on Land Use Planning

Climate Emergency Australia & CASBE | Tuesday 16 June 2026 | 3–4:30pm AEST

This webinar will explore how our changing climate effects land use planning for long-term community resilience, including what should, and shouldn't, be built, and where.

<https://events.humanitix.com/climate-risks-planning>

Climate Adaptation Conference 2026

Newcastle | 26–28 October 2026

Australia's premier adaptation conference. Abstract submissions close 11:59pm AEST, Tuesday 30 June 2026. All successful submissions qualify for a full conference pass at the early bird price of \$1,135.

<https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/CA26/abstracts.html>

Jobs & Opportunities

Casual Research Assistant — HowWeSurvive

HowWeSurvive is a new, ambitious, long-term funded initiative focused on reshaping disaster recovery. Their work centres on elevating the voices and experiences of disaster-affected communities and bringing these perspectives directly to decision-makers. They are seeking motivated Research Assistants to support a short-term project analysing Australian emergency management policy. Working closely with Senior Research Fellow Dr Kate Brady, you will contribute to research, data collection, and project coordination tasks. This role is ideal for someone with prior research experience who is detail-oriented, organised, and interested in disaster recovery, policy, or community-focused research.

<https://external-careers.jobs.unsw.edu.au/cw/en/job/539596/casual-research-assistant-howwesurvive>