Key Themes of Local Board Feedback

Community strengths,
- Existing community networks, groups and connections
- Community infrastructure (halls, places of safety etc) and services
- Local skills and knowledge, individuals' self-reliance, resilience and preparedness (most common amongst rural and island local boards)

Community priorities
- Infrastructure and lifeline utilities (particularly transport networks, power, water)
- Communicating and engaging with communities
- Infrastructure and lifelines utilities (most common vulnerability, across rural and urban local boards)

Community vulnerabilities
- Geographic and natural environment vulnerabilities
- socio-economic vulnerabilities (e.g. access to technology, resources and mobility) and demographic issues (e.g. elderly populations, transient populations)
- Business and economic vulnerabilities (i.e. tourism, small businesses)
- Geographic isolation (for rural and island communities)
- Socially isolated and vulnerable communities

Strong community preferences
- Communicating and engaging with communities
- Tailoring communication to communities – such as ethnic radio stations and using social media.
- Using existing community communication networks
- Stream restoration and securing environmental heritage sites
- Infrastructure
- Local voices and local leadership (particularly in rural and island communities)

Community knowledge of risks
- From most common to least, the reported risks included - Flooding, Inundation, Weather events, Slips, Petrochemical spills, Poor infrastructure and Located on a flight path
- High level of knowledge (about 50% of local boards), with variations related to length of time living in area, experience of local events and local patterns
- The lowest levels of awareness were reported in urban local board areas (one Board identified the April Storm as a wake-up call)

Community influencers
- From most common to least, reported community influencers included - Community groups, networks and leaders, Schools, other education groups and sports clubs, Community infrastructure and service providers (such as health trusts), Emergency responders (particularly in rural and island communities) Religious organisations and Maraes, BISD members.

Key Themes of Advisory Panel Feedback

What would be the most important to you during disaster recovery?

- Appropriate communications and engagement with their communities (e.g. that communication channels were open, communication was accessible, and that communications were translated into appropriate languages)
- Health and safety issues were considered during recovery (ranging from ensuring the availability of medications, food and clothing, dealing with mental health issues in the community, and providing appropriate support and access to healthcare)
- Access to resources, including financial resources, supply chains for rural producers, and manpower for recovery
- Recovering infrastructure and ensuring access to lifelines
- Protecting the identity and cultural heritage values of the built environment
- Prioritising and making use of community networks and connections, and the importance of community infrastructure and services.
- Ensuring appropriate housing arrangements
- Incorporating local input into decision-making.

What challenges to successful disaster recovery might you encounter?

- Health and safety and communications and engagement most commonly identified challenges (including physical and mental health implications post-event,
- Potential for increased crime and its impacts on safety and wellbeing
- Rise of intolerance and discrimination
- Communicating effectively with diverse communities recognised as a particular challenge.
- Limited resources and achieving a timely recovery.
- Challenges of socially and geographically isolated communities
- Implications of failed infrastructure
- A lack of local knowledge, education and skills

What could be done now to improve disaster recovery?

- Improving education, skills, training and local knowledge
- Preparedness, self-reliance and resilience within communities could all be done now to improve disaster recovery.
- Communications and engagement with communities
- Readying community groups and networks for recovery (through community events to encourage neighbourhoods to get to know each other, and building relationships with organisations such as churches, maraes, schools, sports clubs and rainbow organisations)
- Future proofing infrastructure now (roads, building redundancy into the transport system, making power networks more reliable) and future proofing the built environment now (e.g. earthquake strengthening of buildings, universal design).