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Increasing Disaster Resilience of People and Property through Fostering Collaboration in Coastal High Hazard Zones

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As evidenced with the 2011 floods the state of Queensland in Australia is quite vulnerable to this kind of disaster. This project looks at the critical linkages between land use and transport planning in coastal Queensland, especially in light of increased frequencies of cyclonic activity associated with climate change. The aim is improving coordination between local and state government in addressing land use and transport planning in coastal high hazard areas. By increasing the ability of local governments and state agencies to coordinate planning activities, we can help to mitigate impacts of cyclones on communities. Towards that end, we will look at the ways that these groups currently interact, especially with regard to issues involving uncertainty (like cyclones). Through surveys and interviews of coastal local governments and state level planning agencies on how they coordinate their planning activities at different levels as well as how much they take into account the linkage of transportation and land use we aim to identify the weaknesses of the current planning system. The project will identify opportunities for improving the ways we plan and coordinate planning, and make recommendations to improve resilience in advance of disasters so as to help speed up recovery when they occur.