

# CANUNGRA EMERGENCY RESPONSE & EDUCATIONAL FACILITY (CEREF)

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CGI of CEREF Master Plan

## Background Information

BY TROY CUFF

Natural disasters are a perpetual unpredictable threat, destroying lives and property globally. In the Asia Pacific region, impacts from climatic disasters cause massive human casualties, comprehensive infrastructure destruction, ecosystem impacts, and substantial financial losses. Indeed, initial NSW flooding reports (Daily Telegraph, 4/6/22) recorded 83 flood-related rescues – with significantly more rain (and rescues) to come. One woman was “clinging to the tree ... for an hour ... when rescue workers arrived about 9 pm on Saturday night.” “The sad reality is bushfire incidents are increasing in intensity and the social and financial costs are spiralling out of control.” “A 2016 Climate Council report stated that bushfires currently cost the NSW region around \$100 million dollars each year, and this is forecast to rise to \$800 million by 2050.”

[1] Reference for the above figures is the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Report – “The Human Cost of Disasters – An Overview of the Last 20 Years 2000-2019” <https://www.undrr.org/publication/human-cost-disasters-overview-last-20-years-2000-2019>

CEREF will prepare emergency workers for future natural or man-made disasters. During training, students will be immersed in hands-on, realistic emergency scenarios. These include rescuing individuals from submerged vehicles (a purpose-built pond is on site), collapsed structures (to be built), and airlifting victims under difficult conditions (a hanger and hoist will be constructed where varying wind, rain and water conditions can be simulated). Some on-site accommodation will be available, thus allowing for night training.

### CEREF Aim

- To create a state-of-the-art venue, space, and facility where public/training organisations can train and hire;
- To expose young people/school students to career possibilities in emergency services;
- To provide a venue for combined operations activities and competitions between emergency services organisations and companies.
- To provide a place for companies to test new equipment in a controlled environment.
- To forge closer ties with Pacific Island nations by offering free advanced rescue training and on-site housing to senior personnel from those countries.

## What CEREF offers

### Preparedness

The CEREF facility is designed to prepare people for a role in emergency services, including the resource industries. As a privately funded and independent not-for-profit organisation, CEREF will be a First Responder nexus in the southern hemisphere and globally to provide a one-stop, full-service training facility, providing unique, accredited emergency training.

### Personnel

The training facility will be managed and operated by highly experienced, skilled and accredited First Responders, providing services locally, nationally, and globally. These employees can provide valuable life experience directly to students during training, enhancing their training experience and potential contribution to current and future employers.

### Facility & Training Environment

Training opportunities provide real-life environmental scenarios, covering the spectrum of weather conditions and situations typically experienced in natural disasters. State-of-the-art technology, equipment and facilities combine to service a range of global businesses and industries, the full suite for emergency services, defence forces and students year-round, incorporating day and night operations.

### Rescue Training

Specific courses will include an intensive two-week on-site training module involving hands-on training in high-risk activities such as HUET/ underwater rescue, helicopter winching crew coordination, and operating around hazardous chemicals. Training will include rescue in various challenging built and natural environments, such as cliffs, embankments and structures, during the day and night operations.

### Technology

Advanced technology will feature in the facility to enable students to experience the impacts of the spectrum of weather conditions whilst handling emergency events, like a strong wind, rapidly flowing or rising water, and the use of AI/drones in times of critical structure collapses

# Our Commitment to our Australian Returned Soldiers

CEREF will ultimately comprise four construction phases on 50 acres of a freehold property, located at 93-131 Kidston Road, Canungra, just 45 minutes north of the Gold Coast Coolangatta Airport and 60 minutes south of Brisbane Airport, respectively, by road.

The master plan above has been presented to the Local Council, who replied with favourable feedback and support. CEREF has received letters of endorsement from the Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, The Hon, Scott Buchholz MP and Fire and Safety Australia CEO, Steve McLeod.

The CEREF project involves building a brighter future for our ex-ADF personnel by providing an avenue for our return soldiers to be involved in the construction of 2,294.92 square meters of CEREF education/ training space. We recognise and value the significant sacrifice our defence personnel have contributed to our country. Around a quarter of those who returned from war zones have faced various challenges, such as mental health, which can lead to other problems\*. We want to see that our return soldiers can transition back to civilian life and provide a pathway to civilian employment.

\*Source: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/143895825.pdf>

Our appointed building and construction company will partner with a vocational program such as "Civi Street program" offered by TAFE Queensland. In this program, ex-ADF personnel can receive a guided professional education, career pathways in various fields, and, ultimately, a certificate IV of their choice. They can enhance their trade skills, including concreting, electrical, plastering, earthworks, tiling roofing and other trade skills.

What CEREF Inc. has to offer in training the future in emergency response will enable ex-ADF personnel to gain employment in places such as the mining and resources industry.

CEREF Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that will be facilitating various emergency response training, including:

- Dive Rescue
- Cave Rescue
- Confined Space/Rescue
- Helicopter Winch Operation – Air Medical Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue and winching/ hoisting (for helicopter Rescue)

This facility will enable us to work with ex-ADF personnel who transition as emergency response trainers as they are ideally suited to conduct this training work.

## Sponsorship Program

The Canungra Emergency Research and Educational Facility (CEREF) represents innovation, technology, research and education, and real-life exposure to emergency scenarios. You, the sponsor, will participate in the ground-breaking training method dedicated to emergency responders. They will be trained in rescue techniques for natural hazards such as cliffs and embankments, and other environments during the day and the night response/call.



Photo credit:  
<https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/new-report-issued-on-veterans-rejoining-civilian-life/>

Advanced technology will be featured in the facility and training methods to provide students with experience handling emergency events in all manner of weather conditions like a strong wind, rapid water, and the use of AI/drones in times of critical structure collapses. Your sponsorship will make the construction of this training facility possible.

### Benefits to Sponsor

Platinum Sponsors will get:

Company logo placed on one of the following three main buildings:

- Rescue Hoist Trainer (the RHT) Building
- Educational and Research Building (Stage 2)
- Auditorium building (Stage 3)
- Priority access to the training facility booking for your clients and employees.
- Recognition as a sponsor at all events and verbal acknowledgement of support as a Platinum Sponsor and in all media coverage.
- Logo on the prominent position of the CEREF Website, which includes a hyperlink to your homepage.
- Company logo on promotional material.
- Company logo on the facility front gate and reception area.
- A dedicated office space.

### Additional benefits:

- Aside from being part of a state-of-the-art world-class training centre, you will be helping return soldiers transition to the new chapter through skill acquisition, employment and new business.
- Exposure and involvement in all TARP overseas program
- Ability to offer a scholarship program for young upcoming emergency response personnel who will be assisting communities in the event of natural disasters