

Disaster adaptation strategy to maintain business continuity

Abstract

Recent disasters have provided an impetus for businesses and local governments to develop adaptation strategies that will minimise impacts to and ensure rapid recovery of business continuity. Local governments are developing fledgling solutions such as the Brisbane City Council and Lockyer Valley Regional Council voluntary buyback programs and the implementation of temporary local planning instruments, however, additional tools are required to meet business resilience and recovery needs.

Business Process Management (BPM) can provide organisations with well-established methods and techniques for proactively plan business processes, enterprise architecture, business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities to dramatically reduce disruption to business operations and material and financial losses. However, applying BPM to maintaining organisations' business continuity specifically to recover from the disruptions caused by disasters is still in its infancy.

The paper uses Rocklea, a Brisbane industrial area, as a case study to analyse and evaluate existing planning options for local businesses post the 2011 Brisbane flood. The case study findings inform the exploration of the potential synergies between BPM and adaptation planning to influence and inform the development of sustainable (long-term) adaptation strategies for more effective and efficient maintenance of business continuity during and post disasters.

The expected outcomes will include well-defined specifications of business processes to enable planning of business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities for a given organisation. Such process specifications will potentially lead to (semi-)automated workflow for disaster adaptation in the future.

Key words: disaster adaptation strategy, business continuity, business process management, adaptation planning