



**THE
LONG
GAME
PROJECT**

X

ALLFED

Before The
The Post
Rising Game
Sun Report



Scenario Introduction

Catastrophic Event: Mount Merapi Eruption

The following breaking news was presented to the participants:

“**BREAKING:** Mount Merapi Eruption of 2 days ago leaves Airports on High Alert as Ash Cloud Approaches—Flight Cancellations Imminent



Format
In-person



Time
2h



participants
55 people



Theme
Catastrophic Event

Consequences:

- Climate disruption due to sunlight blockage.
- Severe damage, especially to the food system from reduced crop yields.
- Long-lasting climate effects with potential impacts for up to a decade.
- Global decline in crop production, risking food access and affordability.
- Potential starvation for millions or even billions.
- Disrupted food output in Australia.

Their task?

Solve this real-world problem caused by the Mount Merapi eruption. Provide practical and innovative solutions by fostering collaboration and shared decision-making among stakeholders to mitigate its long-term impact.

Tabletop Approach and Game Overview

The session structure for our post-game debrief document is designed for efficiency and engagement within a 90-120 minute time frame. It emphasises a 'Discussion-Decision' format with minimal preparation required. The structure consists of:



Start

*Welcoming
introduction and a
compelling opening*



Middle

*Three rounds of play with
discussion-decision loops:*

ACT 1: *The setup*

ACT 2: *Confrontation/
complication*

ACT 3: *Climax and
Resolution*



End

*A concluding hotwash
debrief to wrap up the
session*

This structure encourages productive dialogue, roleplay, and decision-making to create an engaging and efficient gaming experience.

For this scenario, 4 rounds were run:

Rounds	Situation Status	Task	Additional Play
Round 1 - Reactions	Participants were presented with breaking news about the Mount Merapi eruption.	Explore the likelihood of your organisation connecting with scientific experts and provide suggestions for specific teams. Roll dice to determine a next step.	Craft a press release within a 10-minute time frame.
Round 2 - Meetings	Ten days after the eruption, public awareness of the impending food shortage was rising.	Hold 15-minute meetings, take one emergency action, prioritise meetings, or choose alternatives.	—
Round 3 - Actions	Months had passed, and the world remained in darkness.	Decide as a team on your priorities for the next year, selecting one major and one minor action.	Game masters resolved actions, and Teams had the choice to present their actions and outcomes to fellow participants or stay covert.
Round 4 - Epilogues	Participants, after experiencing the events, engaged in discussions to create epilogues for their Team's future.	Create 1-2 sentence epilogues and present these epilogues to the group	—

Ground Rules

The session structure for our post-game debrief document is designed for efficiency and engagement within a 90-120 minute time frame. It emphasises a 'Discussion-Decision' format with minimal preparation required. The structure consists of:



Respectful
Communication



Stay in Role



Time
Management



Active
Participation



No "Real-World"
Interruptions



Open-
Mindedness



Focus on
Learning



Avoid
Dominating
Discussions



Address
Conflicts
Constructively

Tabletop Approach and Game Overview

Organisation	Role
Australian Defence Force (ADF)	Deliver logistical and operational support for emergency response, prioritise the safety of citizens in high-risk areas, and remain prepared to aid civil agencies and allied nations.
Australian Public	Adhere to official guidelines, support community resilience, and advocate for transparent government action.
A Big Supermarket Chain	Maintains operational efficiency, public service and business continuity.
DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry)	Maintains and creates agricultural export opportunities to provide gains for Australian agriculture, fishing and forestry.
Dairy and Meat Industry (Lobby or union group)	Safeguard sector interests, advocate for government support, and collaborate with stakeholders to execute strategic plans.
Federal Government (Prime minister/cabinet)	Ensure national security, inter-agency coordination, and informed policy-making for crisis mitigation.
NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency)	Coordinates and oversees Australia's response to manage risks and mitigate impacts.
Queensland State Government (QLD)	Prioritise and protect livestock and agricultural assets, coordinate regional emergency responses, and advocate for industry-specific support to safeguard the state's economy.
WA (Western Australia) State Government	Protect and boost the state's economy by prioritising agriculture, coordinating emergencies, and optimising international export opportunities.

Stakeholder Relationships

Organisation Posture to	ADF	Australian Public	Supermarket	DAFF	Dairy and Meat Industry	Federal Government	NEMA	QLD	WA State
ADF	—	Protective, focusing on citizen safety.	Logistically supportive, aiding if appropriate.	Facilitative, assisting in the implementation of biosecurity measures and distribution of emergency supplies to affected sectors.	Responsive, aligning resource deployment to protect key industrial assets based on sector- specific needs.	Directly accountable, operating under the strategic guidance and directives from the Prime Minister and Cabinet.	Subservient but specialised, providing logistical and operational support based on NEMA's strategic directions.	Task-oriented, deploying resources to support the state's livestock and agricultural priorities.	Task-oriented, deploying resources to support the state's livestock and agricultural priorities.
Australian Public	Reassured but watchful, viewing the ADF as a safeguard for emergency response and security.	—	Anxious but hopeful, concerned about the availability of essential supplies.	Concerned but trusting, looking for reassurances on food safety and biosecurity measures.	Either supporting or questioning industry efforts based on how well they align with public welfare.	Demanding and scrutinising, expecting clear leadership and effective crisis management	Relying on NEMA for accurate and timely information and guidance.	Sympathetic or critical, depending on the perceived alignment of state priorities with national welfare.	Sympathetic or critical, depending on the perceived alignment of state priorities with national welfare.
Supermarket	Cooperative, enabling ADF's logistical operations to reach communities effectively.	Service- oriented, focusing on customer safety and needs, while managing public sentiment and expectations.		Coordinated, working to sustain the flow of agricultural and fishery products under biosecurity guidelines.	Engaging, considering industry input for supply chain adjustments and emergency protocols.	Coordinated, working to sustain the flow of agricultural and fishery products under biosecurity guidelines.	Compliant and collaborative, adhering to emergency protocols and sharing logistical data for coordinated action.	Responsive, particularly focused on maintaining a steady supply of regional agricultural products.	Adaptive, adjusting logistics to accommodate WA's unique infrastructure needs.

Organisation Posture to	ADF	Australian Public	Supermarket	DAFF	Dairy and Meat Industry	Federal Government	NEMA	QLD	WA State
DAFF	Logistical coordination, especially in terms of deploying biosecurity measures and distributing emergency supplies.	Informative and cautionary, issuing targeted advisories on food safety and biosecurity risks.	Proactive and strategic, coordinating to maintain food supply and mitigate logistical disruptions.	—	Directive and supportive, offering sector-specific guidance for emergency response and biosecurity protocols.	Advisory and data-driven, supplying technical insights to guide national policy.	Collaborative and consultative, acting as a subject-matter expert on biosecurity and sectoral risks.	Partnering closely to address regional agricultural and livestock concerns, sharing both data and resources.	Supportive and informational, helping to safeguard critical agricultural and forestry interests.
Dairy and Meat Industry	Support-seeking, looking for logistical assistance to protect assets and workforce.	Persuasive, working on shaping public sentiment in favor of industry-specific needs.	Collaborative yet assertive, ensuring the smooth flow of products while negotiating for favorable conditions.	Collaborative, aligning biosecurity and protective actions for shared industry concerns.	—	Lobbying and advisory, pushing for policies that safeguard sector-specific interests.	Consultative and informative, offering industry insights to shape sector-specific emergency measures.	Highly influential, given the state's agricultural focus, shaping local response strategies.	Negotiative, seeking to understand how regional strategies could affect the industry.
Federal Government	Commanding and directing military resources for emergency relief and potential international missions.	Communicative and reassuring, offering transparent updates and guidelines for safety.	Regulatory, ensuring compliance with emergency measures to maintain public supplies.	Consultative, seeking expert advice on biosecurity and sectoral vulnerabilities.	Engaging and consultative, incorporating sector-specific concerns into national policies.	—	Directive and reliant, expecting timely risk assessments and strategy recommendations.	Collaborative but authoritative, coordinating regional efforts while setting national priorities.	Supportive, providing resources and national guidance while respecting regional autonomy.

Organisation Posture to	ADF	Australian Public	Supermarket	DAFF	Dairy and Meat Industry	Federal Government	NEMA	QLD	WA State
NEMA	NEMA would coordinate with the ADF for logistical support and potential international humanitarian missions.	NEMA would issue timely alerts and guidelines to manage public sentiment and ensure compliance with safety measures.	NEMA would liaise with supermarkets to secure essential goods and mitigate supply chain disruptions.	NEMA would collaborate with DAFF to manage biosecurity risks, focusing on safeguarding agriculture, fishing, and forestry sectors from ash events.	NEMA would consult with industries like dairy to develop sector-specific emergency response plans.	NEMA would serve as the advisory body to the executive branch, shaping national policy responses based on real-time risk assessments.	—	NEMA would work with Queensland to prepare for potential livestock feed and water contamination due to events.	addressing logistical challenges impacting resource production.
QLD	Utilitarian, requesting logistical support particularly for the agricultural sector.	Informative and mobilising, rallying community support for agricultural and livestock efforts.	Collaborative, working to ensure a steady supply of regional agricultural products	Synergistic, working closely on biosecurity measures and sectoral risks specific to Queensland's economy.	Highly responsive and supportive, taking cues from industry stakeholders to inform policy and action.	Lobbying and somewhat deferential, advocating for resources and policies that favour the state's agricultural interests.	Collaborative but assertive, seeking guidance while pushing for livestock and agriculture-centric solutions.	—	Information-sharing, focused on comparing regional strategies and challenges.
WA State	Utilitarian, requesting logistical support particularly for the agricultural sector.	Informative and mobilising, rallying community support for agricultural and livestock efforts.	Collaborative, working to ensure a steady supply of regional agricultural products.	Synergistic, working closely on biosecurity measures and sectoral risks specific to Queensland's economy.	Highly responsive and supportive, taking cues from industry stakeholders to inform policy and action.	Lobbying and somewhat deferential, advocating for resources and policies that favour the state's agricultural interests.	Collaborative but assertive, seeking guidance while pushing for livestock and agriculture-centric solutions.	Information-sharing, focused on comparing regional strategies and challenges.	—

Participant Play

As the scenario unfolded, the participants' roles and objectives evolved. Each round presented new challenges, and the participants had to adapt to the changing situation. Here is a summary of how each stakeholder reacted and what they aimed to achieve:

	Round 1 Summary	Round 2 Summary	Round 3 Summary	Final Round Summary
Organisation	Initial Reaction: First Press Release	Meetings	Final Action	Epilogues
ADF	— Situation Monitoring — Collaboration with international partners	Move most warships/ significant military resources to northern perimeter of Australia	Assassination of Supermarket' CEO	<i>"The ADF is proud to have protected Australian security and maintained public order during this crisis. Over the years, we gradually stand down from visible public security activities to allow life to return to normal as the circumstances allow."</i>
Australian Public	— Prioritising public health and wellbeing	Massive riot calling for food to be seized by government	— Overt action: continue to maintain a presence (eg: supermarkets, food storage sites, protecting food transport convoys) — Adjust military presence 'as required' — Covert action: Spy on people who might lead an insurrection	<i>"Social fragmentation continues, small social enclaves form coalescing along ethnic and ideological lines. The public increasingly loses faith in the government and demands immediate action. Significant undercurrent that democracy is no longer"</i>
Supermarket		Minimal rationing of product	Building vertical farms and increase security	

	Round 1 Summary	Round 2 Summary	Round 3 Summary	Final Round Summary
DAFF	— Internal and external stakeholder cooperation — Ensuring local and regional food security	Federalise agriculture through DAFF	Establish a multibillion dollar agricultural innovation fund focussed on calorie dense and nutrient rich food to aid funding for increased yields	<i>"The Minister for DAFF has resigned. A parliamentary inquiry and Royal Commission into the National Agricultural Innovation Fund is undergoing, however, questions are expertly diverted and the incident is soon forgotten. The Fund, whilst well intentioned, ultimately failed in impact."</i>
Dairy and Meat Industry	— Rescue Indonesian food shortage through food exports — Leveraging state support — Highlight dire state of affairs where "man eats cow food"	Doubled price of beef and called for federal support	— Get paid for federal take over — Get consulting charges	<i>"Generous buy back with reparations. We all get Ferraris."</i>
Federal Government	— Situation Monitoring — Collaboration with SMEs — Resource Mobilisation	Empowered ADF to support DAF.	Introduce food stamps for low income group and redeemable for calorie nutrient dense food. Call a snap election to secure power	<i>"As the new federal government we pledge to work collaboratively to support the state governments in consultation with experts to provide food security."</i>
NEMA	— Internal and external stakeholder cooperation — Building a response	Choosing between short and long term priorities for implementation. Implement short-term solutions of crop cultivation, construction of greenhouses and aquaculture	Minor Action: conducting a review Major Action: supporting the Queensland government to develop single cell protein from natural gas and moving agriculture up north	

	Round 1 Summary	Round 2 Summary	Round 3 Summary	Final Round Summary
QLD	— Secure and manage supply chains — Surface level interactions with Indonesia — Collaboration with regional government and industry partners	Explore investment in production of alternative animal feed	— Funded DAFF for relocation of hardy crops to warmer climates — Funded NEMA to support their work in seaweed production and microbial protein manufacture	<i>“Based on their flexibility, adaptability and willingness to make investments in new technologies the Mount Merapi eruption saw the beginning of decades of a strong and prosperous Labour Gov’t in Queensland. Through the tumultuous times, Queensland saw an increase in population and productivity, becoming a global leader in food technology.”</i>
WA State	— Safety controls in Aviation protocols — Public emotion management — Price regulation for livestock sales to Indonesia (lower prices)	Increase meat supply	Ramp up food production and threaten to secede from Australia if they took more than 20% of our food.	<i>“WA remained committed to humanitarian efforts supporting Indonesia throughout the crisis, and were able to increase food supply to adequately feed WA, the rest of Australia, and Indonesia.”</i>

Round 1 Highlights

DAFF:

“Australia is committed to working with government and international bodies.”

Dairy and Meat Industry:

““We want to call attention to calls we’ve heard to treat people like cows and feed Australians cow food...as an emergency measure”

Round 1 Highlights

Federal Government:

“WA threatened to separate from the federation if we tried to take more than 20% of their food production.””

QLD:

“Seaweed production has been going well”

WA State:

“but were able to ensure no one found out about our plan”

Learning

The game provided valuable insights into crisis management, identifying areas for improvement and enhancing our readiness for similar real-world scenarios.

Challenges	Wins	Improvement Areas
"Intentional reinforcement of chaos made it hard to act strategically sometimes" "Insufficient information to make good decisions" "I misunderstood the scale of the problem"	• Dynamic and interactive experience • Fun way of learning • Highly immersive and participatory • Novel way to problem solve • Pragmatically delivered with good humour • Clear instructions and scenario setting	• More time • Limited number of rounds • More coordination and handholding on what needs to be done • More scenario detail • More stage-wise information on action and their associated implications • Smaller groups • Limited usage of chance element • Use of the dice could be more



Testimonials

“ People got really into their roles!

“ Extremely engaging gameplay

“ Easy to see how complex dynamics unfold

“ Well thought through, well organised, moderated with pragmatism and good humour.

“ A lot of fun

“ “Having so many relationships to consider and information to integrate felt like a good simulation of the kind of decisions and pressure that governments would be under in a crisis”

“ Fast paced, enjoyable, high energy. Lots of meaningful learnings

“ Seemed surprisingly plausible

“ The whole thing. Absolutely brilliant.



Contact Us



**THE
LONG
GAME
PROJECT**