

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO NATIONAL NATURAL DISASTER ARRANGEMENTS

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S SECOND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT - MAY 2022

Overview

Queensland's status as Australia's most disaster-prone state has been amply demonstrated already this year by the sudden and severe impact of the Southeast Queensland Rainfall and Flood Event in February.

Such intense natural disasters reinforce the Queensland Government's commitment to effective disaster management and the prioritisation of the safety of people, property and the environment from disaster impacts.

The Queensland Government is continuing its work with the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNNDA), with 14 recommendations now delivered.

Despite significant operational response and recovery activities triggered by the Southeast Queensland Rainfall and Flood Event, progress has been made across a number of recommendations, including those that have been prioritised for implementation nationally. Queensland is supporting the progress of these recommendations through partnerships with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and participation on national working groups.

In Queensland, a project team has been established to deliver the state-wide rollout of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, and new legislation has been introduced to support a national cross-border recognition scheme for the regulation of charitable fundraising.

Queensland air quality monitoring stations have also been upgraded to include the measurement of airborne particles and a program to install seven additional air monitoring stations and 50 smoke sensors across Queensland is underway. Air quality forecasting is now available to the public in Queensland at www.apps.des.qld.gov.au/air-quality.

The Queensland Government's second progress report on implementation of the RCNNDA's recommendations is attached.

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Recommendation	Government Response	Progress
3.1 Australian, state and territory governments should restructure and reinvigorate ministerial forums with a view to enabling timely and informed strategic decision-making in respect of: (1) long-term policy improvement in relation to natural disasters (2) national preparations for, and adaptation to, natural disasters, and (3) response to, and recovery from, natural disasters of national scale or consequence including, where appropriate, through the National Cabinet or equivalent intergovernmental leaders' body.	Support	Delivered On 13 November 2020, National Cabinet announced the establishment of a National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM). The NEMMM has been tasked with oversight of the delivery of RCNDA recommendations that have been prioritised by the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC). The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments through the NEMMM to deliver supported recommendations.
3.2 Australian, state and territory governments should establish an authoritative advisory body to consolidate advice on strategic policy and relevant operational considerations for ministers in relation to natural disasters.	Support	Delivered The Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) has been confirmed as the appropriate body to provide this advice. The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the ANZEMC to formulate advice to the NEMMM and NFRC.
3.3 The Australian Government should revise the COMDISPLAN thresholds to provide that a request for Australian Government assistance, including Defence assistance, is able to be made by a state or territory government when: (1) it has exhausted, or is 'likely to exhaust', all government, community and commercial resources (2) it cannot mobilise its own resources (or community and commercial resources) in time, or (3) the Australian Government has a capability that the state or territory does not have.	Note: Federal Government led	Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.

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3.4	Australian Government agencies should work together across all phases of disaster management.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
3.5	The Australian Government should establish a standing entity that will enhance national natural disaster resilience and recovery, focused on long-term disaster risk reduction.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
3.6	The Australian Government should enhance national preparedness for, and response to, natural disasters, building on the responsibilities of Emergency Management Australia, to include facilitating resource sharing decisions of governments and stress testing national disaster plans.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
4.1	Australian, state and territory governments should prioritise the implementation of harmonised data governance and national data standards.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government continues to work with state and territory governments, guided by the Commonwealth Government, to implement national data governance and standards through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing.
4.2	Australian, state and territory governments should create common information platforms and share technologies to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.	Support in-principle A shared Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) enables the sharing of information across members of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements at the local, state and federal levels. The Queensland Government is developing a prototype platform to consolidate a number of climate and disaster risk information platforms that exist across Queensland - the Queensland Risk Information Platform (QRIP). The Queensland Government is engaging with the Commonwealth Government, through the Australian Climate Service (ACS), on the integration of Queensland disaster risk information into the national platform that the ACS has developed.

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4.3 Australian, state and territory governments should support the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability and aligned climate adaptation initiatives.	Support in-principle	The Commonwealth Government has advised that it has established the ACS to deliver integrated climate and disaster risk information. The Queensland Government looks forward to working with the ACS as it expands its services to state and territory governments and industry sectors.
4.4 The National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability should include tools and systems to support operational and strategic decision making, including integrated climate and disaster risk scenarios tailored to various needs of relevant industry sectors and end users.	Support in-principle	The Commonwealth Government has advised that is has established the ACS to deliver integrated climate and disaster risk information. The Queensland Government looks forward to working with the ACS as it expands its services to state and territory governments and industry sectors.
4.5 Australian, state and territory governments should produce downscaled climate projections: (1) to inform the assessment of future natural disaster risk by relevant decision makers, including state and territory government agencies with planning and emergency management responsibilities (2) underpinned by an agreed common core set of climate trajectories and timelines, and (3) subject to regular review.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is continuing to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop common climate projections.</p> <p>Coordination of climate projection work across the states and territories is being progressed through the Cross-jurisdictional Community of Practice for Climate Science.</p> <p>A Climate Projections Roadmap has been developed to promote consistent approaches to the climate projections, minimise duplication of effort, ensure complementary development of projections and identify key priorities for research and future development.</p> <p>In Queensland, it is anticipated that nationally consistent downscale climate projection information will be available publicly in 2023.</p>
4.6 Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop consistent data standards to measure disaster impact.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government continues to work with state and territory governments, guided by the Commonwealth Government, to implement national data governance and

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		standards through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing. In Queensland, a shared Memorandum of Understanding enables engagement with members of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.
4.7	Australian, state and territory governments should continue to develop a greater capacity to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government continues to work with state and territory governments, guided by the Commonwealth Government, to implement national data governance and standards through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing. In Queensland, a shared Memorandum of Understanding enables the sharing of information across members of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.
5.1	The Australian Government should make provision, in legislation, for a declaration of a state of national emergency. The declaration should include the following components: (1) the ability for the Australian Government to make a public declaration to communicate the seriousness of a natural disaster (2) processes to mobilise and activate Australian Government agencies quickly to support states and territories to respond to and recover from a natural disaster, and (3) the power to take action without a state or territory request for assistance in clearly defined and limited circumstances.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
6.1	State and territory governments should have a structured process to regularly assess the capacity and capability requirements of fire and emergency services, in light of both current and future natural disaster risk.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government is supportive of a structured process and is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to determine the best approach to this recommendation, noting that capacity and capability requirements are different in each state and territory.

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		Queensland has commenced initial scoping work to further understand the recommendation and identify linkages with other work being undertaken within the area of capability and capacity from a fire and emergency services perspective.	
6.2	Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the establishment of a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets. Implementation of this recommendation requires Commonwealth Government leadership as there may be opportunities to draw from existing information systems.
6.3	State and territory governments should update and implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability, or otherwise agree a new strategy, to achieve interoperable communications across jurisdictions.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability.
6.4	Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government continues to support delivery of the Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) capability. The Prime Minister has commissioned an independent review of the PSMB program to examine options for delivery, following the Commonwealth Government's sale of the preferred spectrum for PSMB capability, which was opposed by the Queensland Government.
6.5	Australian, state and territory governments should conduct multi-agency, national-level exercises, not limited to cross-border jurisdictions. These exercises should, at a minimum: (1) assess national capacity, inform capability development and coordination in response to, and recovery from, natural disasters, and (2) use scenarios that stress current capabilities.	Support in-principle	The Commonwealth Government has advised that it has established a national exercising capability within Emergency Management Australia (EMA). The Queensland Government looks forward to collaborating with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through joint exercises coordinated by EMA.

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		Within Queensland, a Working Group with local and state government representation has been established to develop a State Exercise Network across Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements.
6.6	The Australian Government should consider whether employment protections under the <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> are sufficient to ensure that fire and emergency services volunteers will not be discriminated against, disadvantaged or dismissed for reasons associated with their volunteer service during natural disasters.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
7.1	State and territory governments should take steps to ensure that there is better interaction, planning and ongoing understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities and processes by state and territory fire and emergency service agencies and local governments.	Support Delivered The Commonwealth Government has advised that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has reviewed the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) framework. The ADF is recognised as a key partner stakeholder under Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements and has provided invaluable support and assistance to Queensland communities during and after some of the State's most significant disaster events. The Queensland Government will continue to build on this well-established relationship.
7.2	The Australian Government should review the content of the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community manual to ensure consistency of language and application with a revised COMDISPLAN.	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
7.3	The Australian Government should afford appropriate legal protections from civil and criminal liability to Australian Defence Force members when conducting activities under an	Note: Federal Government led Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.

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	authorisation to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.	
8.1	Australian, state and territory governments should develop an Australian-based and registered national aerial firefighting capability, to be tasked according to greatest national need. This capability should include: (1) a modest, very large air tanker/large air tanker, and Type-1 helicopter capability, including supporting infrastructure, aircrew and aviation support personnel, and (2) any other aerial firefighting capabilities (eg Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), line-scanning, transport, and logistics) that would benefit from a nationally coordinated approach.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to progress this recommendation through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC). The Commonwealth Government has provided funding to the NAFC for a National Large Air Tanker. The Queensland Government has also committed \$15 million over five years from 2020 for a large air tanker (LAT) to be based in Bundaberg during the Queensland bushfire seasons.
8.2	Australian, state and territory governments should support ongoing research and evaluation into aerial firefighting. This research and evaluation should include: (1) assessing the specific capability needs of states and territories, and (2) exploring the most effective aerial firefighting strategies.	Support The Queensland Government supports the Commonwealth Government, in consultation with states and territories, leading research and evaluation into the current and future aerial firefighting needs of jurisdictions.
8.3	Australian, state and territory governments should adopt procurement and contracting strategies that support and develop a broader Australian-based sovereign aerial firefighting industry.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government is supportive of an investigation into the feasibility of long-term contractual arrangements with domestic suppliers of aerial firefighting services, noting the Commonwealth Government, in consultation with states and territories, is best placed to lead this work.
9.1	Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters.	Support in-principle The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements include well-established and exercised processes aimed at resupplying disaster-isolated communities, rural properties and stranded persons. The Queensland Government has reviewed supply chain risks in response to previous disasters and is experienced in ensuring

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		<p>supply of essential goods and services to communities and individuals in times of natural disasters.</p> <p>These supply chain processes were recently tested with success during the 2022 COVID-19 Omicron wave and the Southeast Queensland flood event. Lessons learnt activities are being undertaken to ensure any process enhancements are addressed.</p>
9.2	State and territory governments should include road closure and opening information on all roads within their borders on public apps.	<p>Support</p> <p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the provision of road opening and closure information and has embedded road closure and opening information for all state-controlled roads in Queensland through the QLDTraffic service (website, app and 131 940 phone service).</p>
9.3	State and territory governments should provide information to the public on the closure and opening of roads. Information should be provided in real-time, or in advance based on predictions, where possible.	<p>Support in-principle</p> <p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government is supportive of the provision of timely and accurate information to the public on the closure and opening of roads, in the interests of enabling safe and efficient travel, noting that it is not always feasible to provide real-time information on closures, due to the size of the Queensland road network as well as the need to ensure the safety of staff when access to areas is impacted during critical events.</p> <p>The Queensland Government does not publish predictions of closures, due to the potential risk of misinformation.</p>

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		The status of road closures for all state-controlled roads in Queensland is provided through QLDTraffic (website, app and 131 940 phone service).
9.4	The Australian Government, working with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators, should lead a process to: (1) identify critical infrastructure (2) assess key risks to identified critical infrastructure from natural disasters of national scale or consequence (3) identify steps needed to mitigate these risks (4) identify steps to make the critical infrastructure more resilient, and (5) track achievement against an agreed plan.	Support in-principle
9.5	The Australian Government should work with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators to improve information flows during and in response to natural disasters: (1) between critical infrastructure operators, and (2) between critical infrastructure operators and government.	Support in-principle
10.1	State and territory governments should continue to deliver, evaluate and improve education and engagement programs	Support
		Delivered The Queensland Government will continue to implement the annual Get Ready Queensland program. This year-round all-

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	aimed at promoting disaster resilience for individuals and communities	<p>hazards resilience and preparedness program is launched each year prior to Queensland's severe weather season. It involves a broad-reaching awareness campaign, and grants to local governments (total \$2 million per annum) to help communities prepare for disasters and improve their resilience.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will evaluate each campaign and embed learnings into future campaigns to improve community education and awareness.</p>
11.1	State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.	<p>Support in-principle</p> <p>Delivered</p> <p>Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements provide an established framework to support local governments to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.</p> <p>The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) delivers training to local governments under the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) to enhance capability and support the effective performance of its disaster management responsibilities.</p> <p>QFES also assists local governments to deliver disaster risk assessments under the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework, which is informed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.</p>
11.2	State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements: (1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and (2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disaster.	<p>Support in-principle</p> <p>Delivered</p> <p>The <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> and Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements provide an established framework for the sharing of resources between local governments during natural disasters.</p>

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12.1 State and territory governments, working with local governments and fire and emergency service agencies, should ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for roadside vegetation management that take into account, among other things: (1) priority access and egress routes (2) road priority, utility and strategic value (3) cost, and (4) residual risk to national natural disasters.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of a process to ensure roadside vegetation management arrangements are appropriate and is working with the Local Government Association of Queensland to provide clarity as to the roles and responsibilities for the management of vegetation within road corridors. The Queensland Government continues to work with landholders to minimise the risk of bushfire ignition and spread through or from the state-controlled road corridor by removing and / or modifying of bushfire fuel hazards.
12.2 State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: (1) roles and responsibilities of state and territory governments, local governments and local communities (2) education and signage about evacuations and evacuation routes, including education of seasonal populations (3) the adequacy of evacuation routes; including contingencies if evacuation routes or centres are assessed as not being able to cope, and (4) the potential inability to evacuate, either by reason of circumstances or personal characteristics.	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans to ensure they remain current and continue to provide for best evacuation outcomes.
12.3 State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: (1) key risks that essential service outages have on communities during a severe or catastrophic natural disaster (particularly communications and power) (2) availability of essential supplies, including food and water, and (3)	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans to ensure risks to the delivery of essential services can be managed.

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	consequence management and compounding events such as the loss of essential services or health impacts.	
12.4	State and territory governments should, as a priority, adopt nationally consistent terminology and functions for the different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters.	Support The Queensland Government supports nationally consistent terminology and functions for evacuation and sheltering places.
12.5	State and territory governments should provide further community education on the function and limitations of different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters. This education should be nationally consistent.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government is supportive of community education on evacuation shelters and safer places to ensure communities understand to where they should evacuate as a natural disaster approaches.
12.6	State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review these plans, and update them where appropriate, to account for the existence and standard of any evacuation centres and safer places (however described) in the community, including: (1) the capacity of a centre to handle seasonal population variation (2) the suitability of facilities to cater for diverse groups, including vulnerable people, and those evacuating with animals, and (3) the existence of communications facilities and alternate power sources.	Support The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans, including the suitability of evacuation centres and safer places.
12.7	State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update where appropriate, to provide for coordination between states and territories in cross-border areas and to provide cross-border access to evacuation centres.	Support The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans, including cross-border arrangements for border communities.

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13.1 State and territory governments should expedite the development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. It should ensure that there is national consistency in the visual display of the AFDRS and action to be taken in response to each rating.	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop and implement the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). The new system was tested in Queensland during the 2021 northern Australian bushfire season and the AFDRS Program remains on track to launch the new system in September 2022.
13.2 State and territory governments should deliver education to ensure that the public understands the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System ratings, the potential danger attached to each rating, and the action that should be taken in response to each rating.	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop education and media campaign materials to support the roll out of the AFDRS. In Queensland, an AFDRS Project team has been established to deliver the statewide rollout of the AFDRS.
13.3 State and territory governments should urgently deliver and implement the all-hazard Australian Warning System.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop and implement an all hazards Australian Warning System (AWS), with the bushfire warnings introduced in Queensland in December 2020. The Queensland Government continues to progress implementation of the AWS for the other nationally agreed key hazards of flood, storm, cyclone and severe heat. The Queensland Government has completed a program of consultation and engagement with sector and local government stakeholders, to inform the implementation approach for Queensland.
13.4 State and territory governments should ensure that the implementation of the Australian Warning System is	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop

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	accompanied by a carefully developed national education campaign that considers the needs of all Australians.	education and media campaign materials to support the roll out of the Australian Warnings System. The Queensland Government will launch the education campaign for bushfire warnings in 2022, with the campaign focus expected to change as the warnings for more hazard types are introduced.
13.5	The Australian Government should facilitate state and territory governments working together to develop minimum national standards of information to be included in bushfire warnings apps.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing.
13.6	Australian, state and territory governments should continue to explore the feasibility of a national, all-hazard emergency warning app.	Support The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to explore the feasibility of a national all hazards emergency warning app, to ensure any app developed meets the needs of Queensland communities.
14.1	Australian, state and territory governments should: (1) develop close to real-time, nationally consistent air quality information, including consistent categorisation and public health advice (2) greater community education and guidance, and (3) targeted health advice to vulnerable groups.	Support The Queensland Government has adopted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee endorsed hourly reporting on air quality. Public messaging is also delivered on forecast air-quality for the next day (24-hour), with targeted advice to vulnerable groups. The Queensland Government is well positioned to deliver this recommendation in 2022.
14.2	Australian, state and territory governments should develop national air quality forecasting capabilities, which include broad coverage of population centres and apply to smoke and other airborne pollutants, such as dust and pollen, to predict plume behaviour.	Support The Queensland Government is collaborating with the CSIRO on the development of a national air quality forecasting system. The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has upgraded its air quality monitoring stations to include the measurement of airborne particles. DES is also undertaking a

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			program to install seven additional air monitoring stations and 50 smoke sensors.
15.1	Australian, state and territory governments should review Australian Medical Assistance Team capabilities and procedures and develop necessary training, exercising and other arrangements to build capacity for domestic deployments.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>Queensland Health has reviewed its current register of AUSMAT-trained staff to ensure future capacity for domestic deployments.</p> <p>AUSMAT Queensland has deployed Queensland Health and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff to support domestic and international public health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Tasmania, Victoria, the Howard Springs Quarantine Facility in Darwin, Christmas Island, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.</p>
15.2	Australian, state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including: representation on relevant disaster committees and plans and providing training, education and other supports.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government supports and continues to advocate for greater inclusion of primary health care providers and Primary Health Networks in disaster management, with health sub-committees established for several District Disaster Management Groups throughout Queensland.</p> <p>Queensland Health continues to improve its disaster management planning based on learnings from aged care evacuations and natural disaster events such as the 2022 floods. The Queensland Government will review its primary health care provider governance arrangements which will be tested through an engagement and exercise program.</p>
15.3	Australian, state and territory governments should refine arrangements to support localised planning and the delivery of appropriate mental health services following a natural disaster.	Support	The Queensland Government has integrated mental health planning through the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, at a local, district and state level.

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		<p>Mental health services are primarily delivered through the establishment of Mental Health Disaster Recovery Teams with joint funding from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under Category C of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).</p> <p>The Queensland Government has strong partnerships with non-government organisations, which provide a range of social, emotional and psychological support services in response to natural disasters. Queensland is well placed to deliver this recommendation in 2022.</p>
<p>15.4 Australian, state and territory governments should agree to: (1) develop consistent and compatible methods and metrics to measure health impacts related to natural disasters, including mental health, and (2) take steps to ensure the appropriate sharing of health and mental health datasets.</p>	Support	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is contingent on Commonwealth Government guidance.</p> <p>Queensland Health is currently implementing a Disaster and Emergency Incidents Relief and Recovery (DEIRR) web application to capture data during the relief phase (recovery centres) and the recovery phase (deployment of Mental Health Disaster Response Teams).</p>
<p>16.1 Australian, state and territory governments should ensure greater consistency and collaboration in the collation, storage, access and provision of data on the distribution and conservation status of Australian flora and fauna.</p>	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, and state and territory governments to develop National Biodiversity Data Governance. The Council of Australasian Herbaria meet twice yearly to facilitate data and information exchange and set data standards.</p> <p>The Queensland Herbarium continues to interact with similar organisations across Australia and provide fauna and flora data to the Australasian Virtual Herbarium, Atlas of Living Australia and National Vegetation Information System.</p>

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17.1 Public land managers should clearly convey and make available to the public their fuel load management strategies, including the rationale behind them, as well as report annually on the implementation and outcomes of those strategies.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government has published a suite of informative materials to educate land holders about fuel load management strategies and continues to encourage public land managers and local governments to publish their Bushfire Management Plans. With the re-establishment of Queensland's State Bushfire Committee, new and innovative approaches to fuel load management strategies are being shared via Fire Management Groups at a local, regional and state level.
17.2 Australian, state and territory governments should review the assessment and approval processes relating to vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction to: (1) ensure that there is clarity about the requirements and scope for landholders and land managers to undertake bushfire hazard reduction activities, and (2) minimise the time taken to undertake assessments and obtain approvals.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with landholders and land managers to ensure there is a clear understanding of how existing exemptions apply to the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks and fire management lines under Queensland's vegetation management framework. The Queensland Government will also clarify arrangements with a number of local governments that have local laws regulating vegetation clearing for fire management. Any future policy amendments will be evaluated via the State Bushfire Committee.
17.3 Australian, state and territory governments should develop consistent processes for the classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the National Bushfire Intelligence Capability that is being led by the Australian Climate Service. National discussions on appropriate specific data sets and the data sharing agreements are underway.
18.1 Australian, state, territory and local governments should engage further with Traditional Owners to explore the	Support	The Rural Fire Service (RFS) has established First Nations Bushfire Safety Officers across Queensland. These Bushfire

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	relationship between Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience.	<p>Safety Officers will work in each region with Traditional Owners and RFS Brigades to improve understanding in the use of traditional burning practices.</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports ongoing engagement and collaboration with traditional owners to develop best practice approaches to bushfire mitigation and disaster resilience.</p>
18.2	Australian, state, territory and local governments should explore further opportunities to leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of public land management activities.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Queensland Government continues to explore opportunities to leverage insights from First Nations' land and fire management practices.</p> <p>The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has been developing co-designed management instruments with First Nations groups since 2019. These statutory documents ensure that First Nations culture, heritage and values are prioritised alongside other key values of the protected area and identifies opportunities for co-management in the delivery of day-to-day activities.</p>
19.1	State and territory governments should: (1) each have a process or mechanism in place to communicate natural hazard risk information to households (including prospective purchasers) in 'hazard prone' areas, and (2) work together, and with the Australian Government where appropriate, to explore the development of a national mechanism to do the same.	<p>Support in-principle</p> <p>The Queensland Government continues to work with state and local governments to develop and update public facing disaster management risk information.</p> <p>Nationally, the Queensland Government is working with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to ensure that updated cyclone information for Queensland is included within the ABCB's work program.</p>
19.2	The insurance industry, as represented by the Insurance Council of Australia, working with state and territory governments and other relevant stakeholders, should produce	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports working with the insurance industry to provide information to consumers to</p>

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	and communicate to consumers clear guidance on individual-level natural hazard risk mitigation actions insurers will recognise in setting insurance premiums.	mitigate against the impacts of natural disasters to reduce the long-term costs associated with disaster damage and insurance premiums. The Queensland Government has already developed a suite of building guides in partnership with the insurance industry that outline resilient design for Queensland homes and provides insurance information to consumers through the Get Ready Queensland website and advertising campaigns.
19.3	State, territory and local governments should be required to consider present and future natural disaster risk when making land-use planning decisions for new developments.	Support Delivered The Queensland Government has established the requirement for natural disaster risk to be considered by local governments when making or amending land use planning schemes. Mandatory implementation is ongoing through the State Planning Policy 2017 (SPP) and associated planning framework.
19.4	The Australian Building Codes Board, working with other bodies as appropriate, should: (1) assess the extent to which AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, and other relevant building standards, are effective in reducing risk from natural hazards to lives and property, and (2) conduct an evaluation as to whether the National Construction Code should be amended to specifically include, as an objective of the code, making buildings more resilient to natural hazards.	Support The Queensland Government supports the work that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is doing to implement this recommendation. The ABCB business plan includes a strategic project on building resilience to undertake a scope of work and review National Construction Code provisions to determine if further enhancements should be made so new buildings are more resilient to climate change-related extreme weather events. The ABCB Office is also participating in a review of AS 3959.
20.1	Governments should create and publish standing policy guidance on whether they will or will not assist to clean-up debris, including contaminated debris, resulting from natural hazards.	Support Delivered

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		<p>The Queensland Government co-funds and provides guidance on the clean-up of debris by local governments to enable safe access to residential properties.</p> <p>The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) annually reviews and updates the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Guidelines for local governments.</p> <p>The QRA also provides guidance on DRFA eligibility for clean-up activities via websites, tip-sheets, pre-season preparedness training, and the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Guidelines.</p>	
21.1	State and territory governments should develop and implement efficient and effective arrangements to: (1) educate the public about the challenges associated with donated goods, for example, the storage and distribution of donated goods, and (2) manage and coordinate donated goods to ensure offers of support are matched with need.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>Education on and the management of donated goods are embedded in the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and articulated in the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Management Guideline.</p> <p>The Queensland Government manages, and coordinates donated goods through a virtual warehouse and educates the public on responsible donations across a range of communication platforms.</p>
21.2	Australian, state and territory governments should create a single national scheme for the regulation of charitable fundraising.	Note	<p>The Queensland Government has worked with the Commonwealth and other state and territory governments to develop a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising. Legislation to commence implementing the scheme in Queensland is expected to be introduced in late 2022.</p> <p>Legislation providing for the harmonisation of fundraising reporting requirements was passed by the Queensland Parliament in July 2020 and reporting exemptions for charities</p>

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		<p>with reporting obligations to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission are expected to be in place by 1 July 2022.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is also participating in national work examining opportunities for the harmonisation of fundraising conduct requirements. This work has been identified by National Cabinet as one of 10 priority reforms in reducing overlapping regulation.</p> <p>The three reforms (cross-border recognition, reporting harmonisation and conduct harmonisation) will go a long way towards providing a single national approach for charities that operate on a national level through their registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.</p>	
21.3	The Australian Government, through the mechanism of the proposed standing national recovery and resilience agency, should convene regular and ongoing national forums for charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups, with a role in natural disaster recovery, with a view to continuous improvement of coordination of recovery support.	Note: Federal Government led	Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government
21.4	Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national mechanism for sharing of trained and qualified recovery personnel and best practice during and following natural disasters.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee to develop a National Recovery Capability Strategy.</p> <p>The National Recovery Training Project being led by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and Australian Industry Standards is currently developing a formalised recovery training package, which will result in two new</p>

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			qualifications (Diploma and Advanced Diploma in recovery) and a new skill set.
21.5	Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop a program for national level recovery exercises, building on the work currently underway through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.	Support	<p>The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) is developing a National Recovery Capability Package which has two components: a Recovery Exercising Toolkit and Recovery Exercises.</p> <p>The Recovery Exercising toolkit will provide specialised recovery modules for exercises, and enable content to be tailored to the needs of the regional or local level.</p> <p>Under Queensland’s disaster management arrangements, Queensland Government is responsible for delivering recovery exercises, however, Commonwealth Government input can support delivery of Queensland exercise recovery program at a regional level.</p>
22.1	Australian, state and territory and local governments should evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial assistance measures to inform the development of a suite of pre-effective pre-determined recovery supports.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to progress this work.</p> <p>Queensland will continue to work with its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) stakeholders’ group and the NRRRA to review measures and ensure any ‘off-the-shelf’ packages embed sufficient flexibility to accommodate local needs, and their effectiveness is evaluated as per DRFA requirements.</p>
22.2	Australian, state and territory governments should ensure that personal information of individuals affected by a natural disaster is able to be appropriately shared between all levels of government, agencies, insurers, charities and organisations delivering recovery services, taking account of all necessary	Support in-principle	Queensland has in place a Privacy Guideline for disaster management and an opt in consent process for persons applying for disaster relief under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

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	safeguards to ensure the sharing is only for recovery purposes.	The Queensland Government is working with the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) to explore the feasibility of a national digital identity system through the NRRRA's Tell us Once project.
22.3	In reviewing the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Australian, state and territory governments should examine the small disaster criterion, and financial thresholds generally.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in the review of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measures, including financial thresholds. Comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of changes to financial thresholds and the small disaster criterion will need to be undertaken to fully appreciate the potential implications of any changes.
22.4	Australian, state and territory and local governments should develop greater consistency in the financial support provided to individuals, small businesses and primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Support in-principle The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to develop consistency across jurisdictions.
22.5	Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the development of pre-agreed recovery programs, including those that address social needs, such as legal assistance domestic violence, and also environmental recovery.	Support The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The Queensland Government is leading the 'off-the-shelf' public infrastructure betterment package with the establishment of a \$20 million Commonwealth and Queensland Government betterment fund, to rebuild essential public infrastructure damaged in the 2020-21 disaster season to a more resilient standard. A new streamlined process for activating community recovery assistance was introduced for the 2020-21 high risk weather

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		season. Learnings from the season will inform activation in future seasons. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has supported the implementation of a streamlined Category C activation process.
22.6 Australian, state and territory governments should incorporate the principle of ‘build back better’ more broadly into the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop new national guidance on essential public asset restoration and betterment.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is leading work to develop a national pre-agreed, off-the-shelf ‘betterment’ package.</p>
22.7 Australian, state and territory governments should broaden Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to encompass funding for recovery measures that are focused on resilience, including in circumstances which are not ‘exceptional’.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).</p> <p>Queensland supports the inclusion of resilience measures into mainstream, non-exceptional recovery measures, which has been demonstrated through the jointly funded Betterment Program.</p> <p>Queensland will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government and other jurisdictions in the review of DRFA measures.</p>
22.8 Australian, state and territory governments should create simpler Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements application processes.	Support	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to streamline and simplify Category C and D processes under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

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			New processes will continue to be trialled in 2022 to ensure that recovery assistance can be activated in a more appropriate and timely manner.
24.1	The Australian Government should establish accountability and assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Note: Federal Government led	Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.
24.2	Each state and territory government should establish an independent accountability and assurance mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Support	Delivered The Queensland Government supports an independent mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice, noting that the functions of the independent Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, established under the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> (Qld) include: monitoring the compliance of departments with their disaster management responsibilities and identifying opportunities to improve disaster management outcomes.
24.3	The material published as part of this Royal Commission should remain available and accessible on a long-term basis for the benefit of individuals, communities, organisations, businesses and all levels of government.	Note: Federal Government led	Federal Government recommendation – no action required from The Queensland Government.