



Queensland's new era of Disaster and Emergency Services

STRONGER
focus on prevention,
preparedness, resilience
and recovery

**CONNECTED AND
COORDINATED**
state disaster and
emergency response

EXPANDED
service capacity
for the future

Building on the state's world-class services
to create a stronger, more resilient Queensland.



Acknowledgment of Country

The Queensland Government honours the cultures, histories and knowledge of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We value the Traditional Custodians of the land and recognise the richness embedded within their diverse languages, cultures, and perspectives.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge their significant and ongoing connection to the lands and waterways on which we live and work.



**The Honourable
Mark Ryan MP**

*Minister for Police and
Community Safety*

Queensland is entering a new era of disaster and emergency services with more capacity and more funding than ever before.

Queensland experiences more natural disasters than any other state. Our vast and varied landscapes, coupled with our differing terrains means we need to be efficient, equipped, and innovative to respond to emergencies and disasters. With the increasing pace and growing demand, our first responders need more support and resources to continue to assist our communities in their lifesaving work.

These changes are the most significant transformational changes to emergency and disaster management within our state. The Queensland Government is investing \$578 million over five years to support these changes and provide more personnel, more resources and more equipment to help keep our communities, Queenslanders and our frontline responders safe.

These transformational changes see Queensland Police Service leading the state's disaster management coordination of first responders, delivering disaster management functions, and hosting the dedicated State Emergency Service (SES) and a new service called Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ). MRQ will bring together two volunteer marine organisations across the state to become a single integrated volunteer marine rescue service for the first time in Queensland.

This commitment is part of the Government's broader plan to deliver a world-class, innovative and inter-connected disaster and emergency management system to keep Queenslanders safe in times of natural disasters or emergencies.



**The Honourable
Nikki Boyd MP**

*Minister for Fire and Disaster
Recovery and Minister for
Corrective Services*

Wide-ranging reforms across Queensland's disaster and emergency response agencies, including Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Reconstruction Authority, will deliver a stronger, more streamlined focus on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

A \$578 million investment over five years will ensure our people have the first-class equipment, training and capabilities needed to keep themselves and their communities safe.

Record funding for our dedicated members and volunteers from the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) will better enable them to protect people, property and the environment within their communities. Not only will there be an additional 114 positions filled to support volunteers, funding is already being invested in new RFSQ facilities, equipment and fleet.

Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) will receive a significant boost in funding and an additional 143 firefighter positions to ensure it continues to be provide critical emergency management, fire mitigation programs and services throughout Queensland.

As the agency responsible for the state's coordinated disaster recovery efforts, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will receive additional funding, an additional 30 positions and expanded responsibilities aimed at supporting our communities with disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

These changes will strengthen the state's response to fire, disaster management and emergency services, while providing greater reassurance for Queenslanders when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state.

Total investment

\$578 million over 5 years

The Queensland Government is investing more than \$578 million over the next five years to boost its world-class disaster and emergency response and recovery services across Queensland.

These reforms are the most significant changes to the state's disaster and emergency management system, increasing the state's disaster coordination effort and boosting frontline support with almost 500 additional full time emergency services staff to further uplift operations across Queensland's fire, disaster and emergency services.

To support these landmark changes a raft of new and amended legislation has been introduced to enhance the state's capability to get ready for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.



This historic investment in Queensland community safety response is:

- › Delivering a more capable, connected and coordinated state disaster and emergency response under the guidance and direction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The new disaster and emergency service response includes the establishment of the Emergency Management and Coordination Command (EMCC) to lead state-wide operations and coordinate responses with local emergency response services.
- › Strengthening the role of State Emergency Services within our community. The changes include creating a separate State Emergency Service legal entity with a dedicated operating budget, increased state-led leadership, more training and equipment, and boosting the important role of our local volunteers across Queensland.
- › Establishing the first-ever, Government coordinated Marine Rescue Queensland. This unique service aims to build support and capability for our local Marine Rescue volunteers, providing more vessels, resources and equipment to help keep Queenslanders safer on our marine waterways.
- › Creating a new Queensland Fire Department as a dedicated service to focus on the state's fire prevention, response and control and respond to the rescue needs of the community.
- › Building a stronger focus on preparedness, resilience and recovery to support our communities when they need it most and ensure resilience capability is led by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as the agency responsible for the state's coordinated disaster recovery efforts.



Delivering a world-class, connected Disaster and Emergency Response

The state's frontline disaster and emergency services are uniting to create a stronger, safer response and better support our communities in the face of disaster.

The QPS, EMCC, SES and MRQ have come together under the QPS to strengthen Queensland's first response and ensure our frontline workers and volunteers are better supported in emergency situations. To support a strong coordinated effort up to \$30 million in reoccurring funding has been invested by the Queensland Government.

The new disaster and emergency response under QPS includes:

Boosting the state's disaster coordination of first response

During natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and bushfires, the QPS plays a crucial role in helping to coordinate emergency responses and keeping the community safe by evacuating residents, securing properties, and providing assistance to those in need.

The EMCC, coordinated by QPS, is the epicentre of state's disaster management response, working in partnership with local, district and state disaster groups to deliver vital responses to support Queensland communities. Services from across other agencies have been consolidated into the one EMCC hub and boosted with additional resources to continue to deliver world-class emergency and disaster coordination services for Queensland.



Steve Gollschewski

Commissioner
Queensland Police Service

These reforms enhance our capability to provide the best possible frontline support when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state. I welcome the dedicated and highly skilled volunteers and staff.

Up to **\$30 million** in reoccurring funding for disaster response and coordination functions

+160 new disaster management positions
(across EMCC, SES and MRQ)

SES and Marine Rescue move under **QPS**
as well as funding for community lifesaving and emergency services cadets

Continuing to connect local partners to strengthen support

With Queensland facing more natural disasters than ever before, interconnected networks with local councils, businesses and community-based volunteers will continue to play a vital role in our local disaster and emergency response and only strengthen our community services. Managing local community disaster response needs will remain local and EMCC will continue to guide and support local community efforts.

Increasing support for SES and marine rescue volunteers

An integral part of the state's local emergency and disaster response, the SES and MRQ are supported by the QPS disaster and emergency leadership, as part of the new model. These enduring partnerships will be boosted to combine efforts in conducting land and sea search, rescue and emergency service efforts. Volunteers across the state provide invaluable community emergency and rescue services and the QPS will continue to support these important lifesaving services.

Supporting community lifesaving and emergency services

Community lifesaving and rescue services, such as Surf Lifesaving Queensland, Royal Lifesaving Society of Queensland and Police Citizens Youth Club Emergency Services Cadets (PCYC ESC), rely on ongoing Queensland Government funding.

Funding of these crucial community services will continue to be supported under the QPS and to ensure these vital services underpin our local community rescue response.

State Disaster and Emergency Management Model

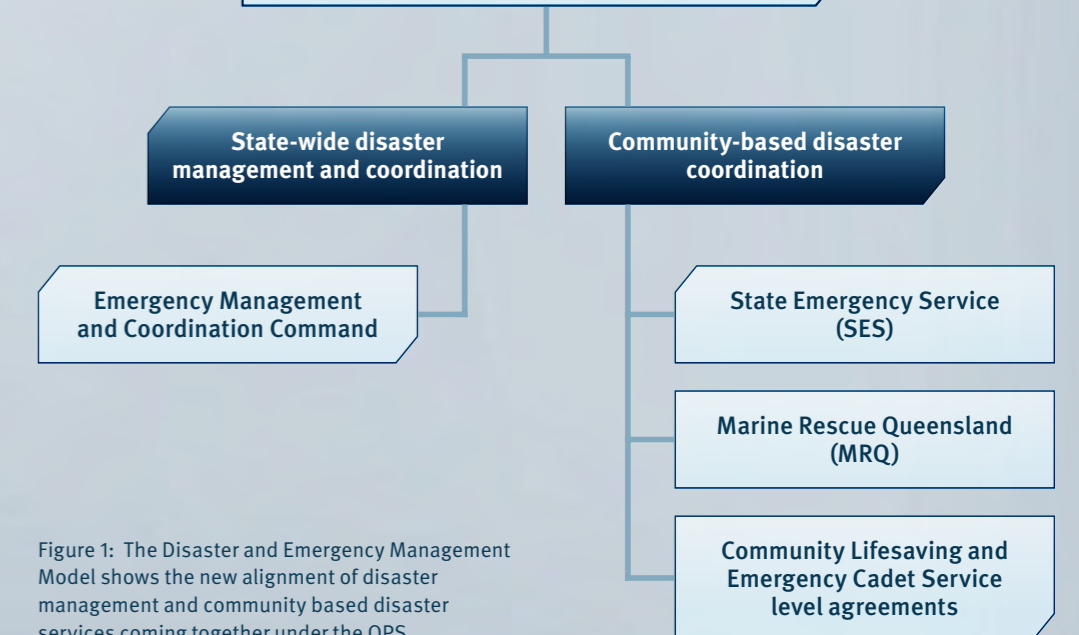


Figure 1: The Disaster and Emergency Management Model shows the new alignment of disaster management and community based disaster services coming together under the QPS.



Strengthening our State Emergency Service

The SES plays a crucial role in supporting local councils and helping local communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, including cyclones, severe storms, floods, and landslides.

In recognition of the importance of SES within our communities, the Queensland Government is boosting its support, creating a dedicated service, under the guidance of the QPS, and funding 105 additional SES support positions, as well as, ongoing investment in crucial capabilities.

New capability investment includes:

- > new SES flood boats
- > support to vehicle and equipment fleets, and
- > establishment of a dedicated SES Registered Training Organisation.

The crucial partnership between councils and SES is one of the most effective approaches to protecting and supporting residents during natural disasters and emergencies and joint funding will continue to ensure SES's success.



Mark Armstrong

*State Emergency Service
Chief Officer*

The important role of SES has been recognised and elevated through these reforms.

Honouring SES' proud history of dedicated volunteers and members, the government's increased investment and formation of a separate service, will lead to more frontline support and capability when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state.

Strong partnerships will continue to underpin SES' success. I look forward to boosting our SES support and collaborating with our partners across the state.

\$60 million
record budget

+105
SES support positions





Establishing one **Marine Rescue Queensland**

Queensland is excited to establish a new service called Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ). MRQ brings together the extraordinary wealth of expertise and diverse geographic knowledge of our existing marine rescue volunteers from Australian Coast Guard Volunteer Association and Volunteer Marine Rescue into the one rescue team, one service, across the state.

Marine rescue volunteers protect Queenslanders on our oceans and waterways and are prepared to do whatever it takes to help save lives on the water and this service will be further supported under the leadership of the QPS.

Creating MRQ demonstrates the importance of our marine rescue volunteers and the commitment of the Queensland Government to ensure our volunteers have the resources and support to carry out this crucial service for our local communities. MRQ aims to further align marine rescue volunteers, the QPS and Water Police to strengthen safety and support for Queenslanders when out and about on the water.

With \$35.38 million investment and 35 full-time personnel to support our volunteers, the new service aims to deliver more frontline support, resources, vessels, capability and equipment.

As more and more Queenslanders enjoy our coastlines and inland waterways, our MRQ safety response will be an essential lifeline for those out and about on the water..

\$35.38 million
to establish MRQ and support
marine rescue services

\$22.3 million
over four years to
replace aging vessels

+35
state support staff
for MRQ

+22
new and replacement
vessels



Tony Wulff

*Marine Rescue Queensland
Chief Officer*

Launching Queensland’s first-ever Marine Rescue Queensland is a historic moment for our marine rescue volunteers and the communities they support.

The transition acknowledges the commitment and dedication of volunteers and reinforces the importance of supporting them with resources and equipment to ensure they can continue this valuable lifesaving work.

It is a privilege to lead MRQ and help our communities to be safer on the water.



Building on great foundations

Queensland Fire Department

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) builds on the great foundations of Queensland's fire services. The new QFD comprises Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR), Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ), State Operations Directorate (SOD) and Strategy and Corporate Services (SCS) and has a clear focus on fire prevention, response and control.

The reforms help ensure QFD is best placed to meet the challenges of our ever-changing climate and respond to emergencies and disasters as they impact growing Queensland communities, with additional funding for extra frontline and support positions, and new and improved facilities, training and equipment.

RFSQ's record funding aims to better protect people, property and environment for all Queensland communities. There will be significant investment in new and improved RFSQ facilities, equipment and fleet, and an extra 114 support positions will assist volunteers in doing what they do best.

The changes also recognise the valued service provided by volunteers and ensure greater legal protections for them as they serve their communities during disaster and emergencies.

A significant funding boost for QFR for additional 143 firefighter positions will enhance its multi-hazard response capabilities to help protect Queenslanders and keep communities safe.

As always, the department's focus is on being there for Queensland communities during disasters and emergencies.



+114
new Rural Fire Service
Queensland positions

+143
new firefighters in
Queensland Fire and Rescue

More than
\$85 million
for 3 year fleet build program
RFSQ and QFR



Steve Smith AFSM

*Commissioner
Queensland Fire Department*

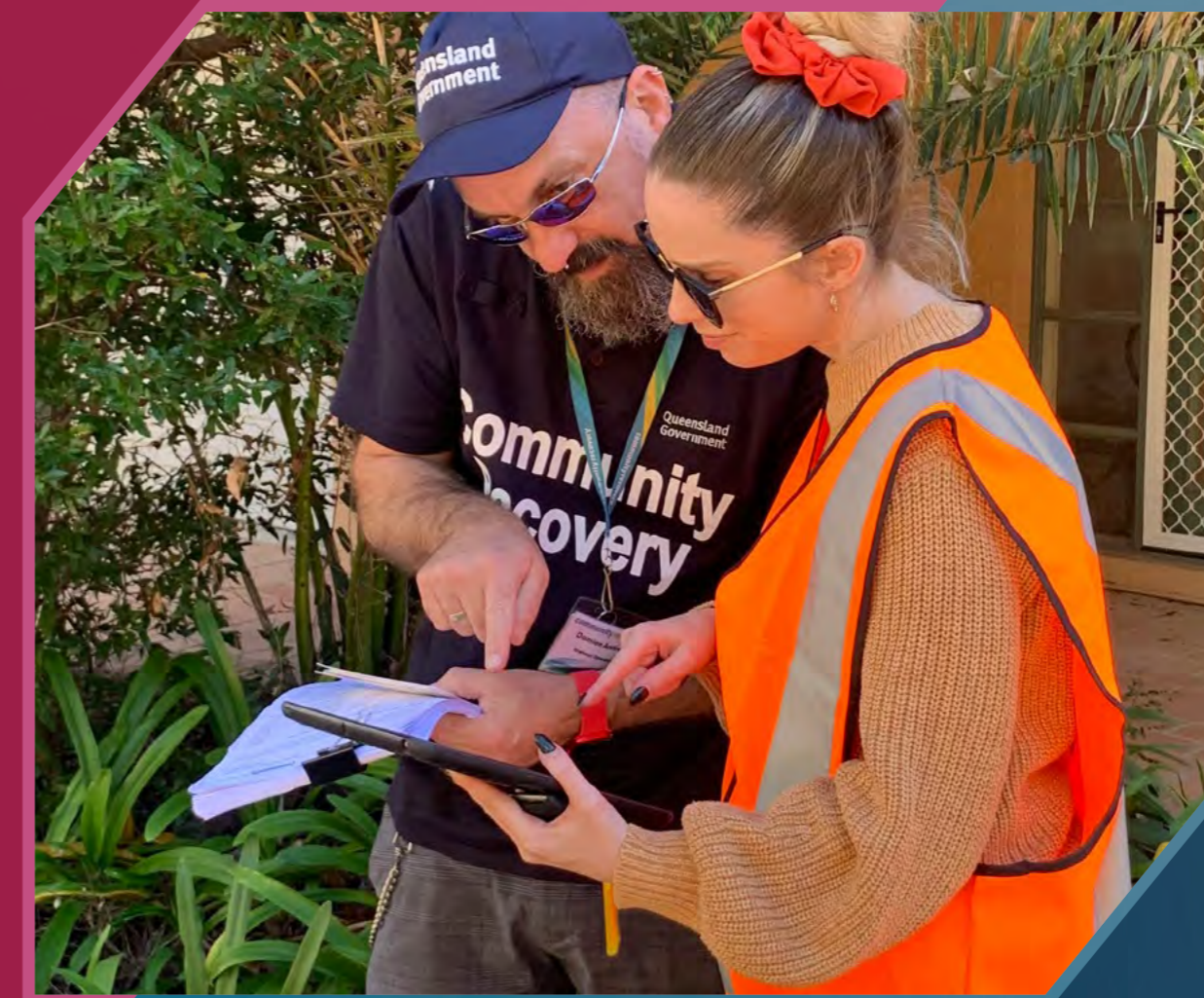
These reforms give the department a strong platform to respond to challenges including climate change while continuing to deliver exceptional services to Queenslanders.



Building a strong state-wide Resilience and Recovery Capability

Queensland is further investing in our state's resilience and recovery efforts to uplift community disaster preparedness and recovery responsiveness. As part of this major reform, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has received expanded prevention, mitigation and preparedness responsibilities aimed to deliver our mission of stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland communities. QRA is now responsible for state-level hazard and risk functions, including the delivery of a state risk assessment tool, as well as certain community engagement and education activities and campaigns previously delivered by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. This includes the expansion of QRA's Get Ready Queensland brand to include the 'If It's Flooded Forget It' campaign. The Government has invested in 30 new positions for QRA to ensure this uplift in responsibilities is supported.

QRA is the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, and is responsible for coordinating action to improve the resilience of communities and facilitate locally-led disaster recovery. QRA also manages and coordinates the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure betterment and recovery funding within disaster-affected communities. These reform changes will enable QRA to continue to support Queensland communities to be more resilient to disaster events, and to recover more effectively. QRA will remain committed to preparedness and prevention activities that aim to minimise the impacts of disasters on Queensland communities, and looks forward to continue to collaborate with all levels of government to ensure we continue to reduce risk and build readiness to future emergent situations.



30 new positions
and associated funding



Major General Jake Ellwood (Retd)

*Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority*

These reforms enhance QRA's strong commitment to bolster disaster preparedness and keep Queenslanders safe by getting ready, reducing risk and building greater resilience and recovery capability.

**A STRONGER,
SAFER QUEENSLAND.**



Queensland
Government