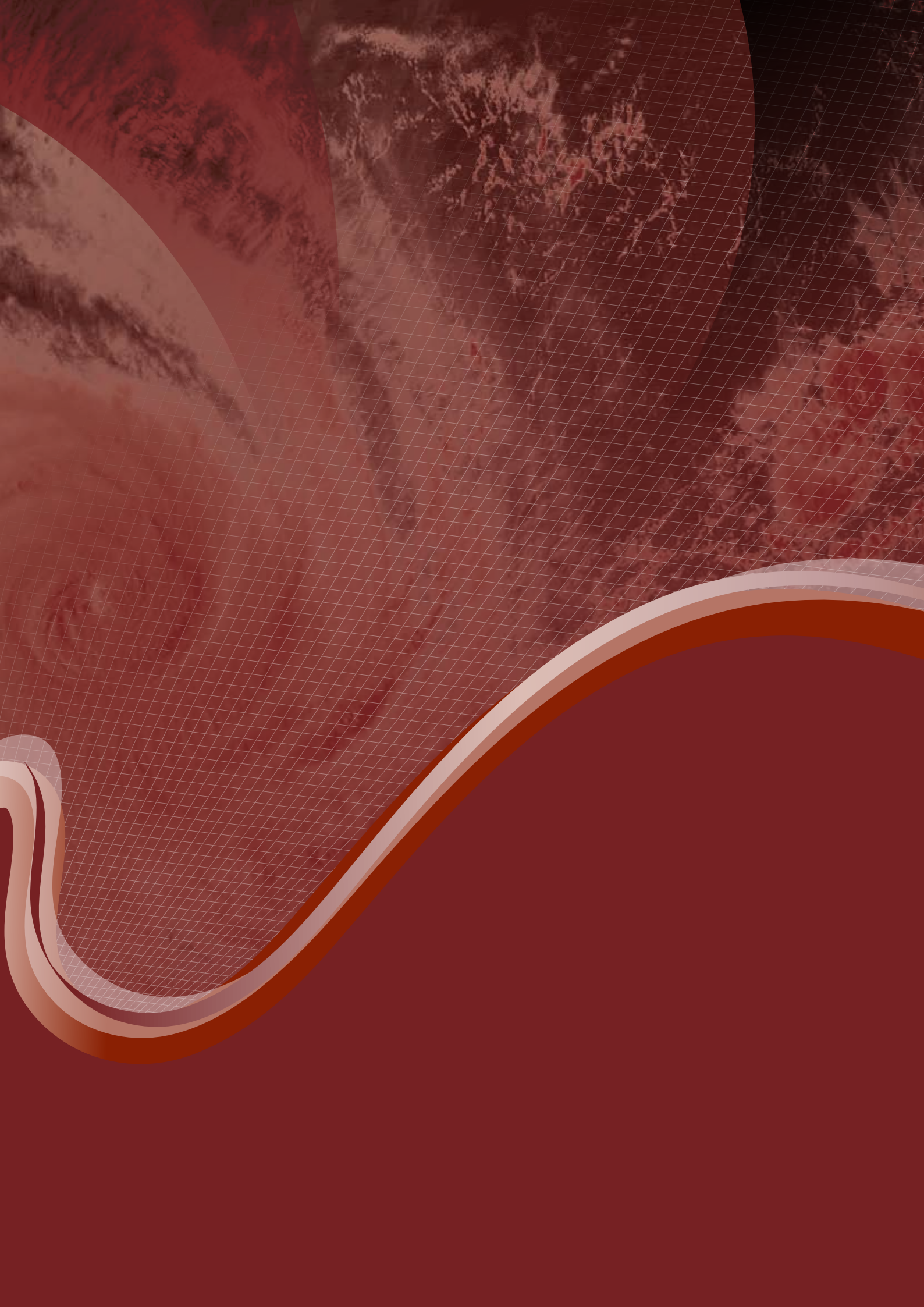


State Disaster Management Group  
**Annual Report**  
2007-2008







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## Letter of transmission

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP  
Minister for Emergency Services  
GPO Box 1377  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

There is a high risk of natural disaster in Queensland; higher than most other states in Australia. Coordination is the key to reducing the adverse impact of disasters upon Queensland communities. Everyone has a part to play in reducing community vulnerability to extreme events such as floods, bushfires, cyclones and severe storms: Government, industry and commerce, local communities, families and individuals.

I have pleasure in submitting this fifth annual report of the State Disaster Management Group for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. This report highlights the initiatives and actions undertaken by State Government agencies that support the Queensland disaster management arrangements and includes legislative reporting requirements and details of operations during the reporting period.

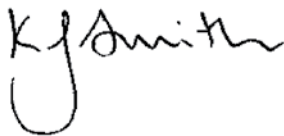
The report demonstrates that disaster management is a complex undertaking and, if it is to be effective, requires a comprehensive 'all-hazards' approach. For Queensland to become a safer and more sustainable place to live, all Queenslanders need to understand and to consider the hazards and risks within their communities and take the initial steps to protect themselves and assist their neighbours.

The actions outlined in this report continue to build on the Queensland Government priorities of safer, more sustainable communities.

To keep Queenslanders aware of the initiatives and actions undertaken in relation to disaster management, the report will be available through the websites of [www.emergency.qld.gov.au](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au) and [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

I commend the report to you.

Yours sincerely



Ken Smith  
Chairperson  
State Disaster Management Group

## Executive summary

During the 2007-2008 year, the State Disaster Management Group (State group) undertook the following major activities:

- » Whole-of-Government response, led by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), to the Equine Influenza (EI) outbreak, first detected in August 2007. This was effected through the activation of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) at Kedron, which coordinated support resources and requests for assistance under the Queensland disaster management arrangements, the establishment of the Operations Response and Recovery Management Group and activation of District Disaster Management Groups (district groups) throughout south east Queensland (SEQ) and Local Disaster Management Groups (local groups) within the affected disease control area. The operational capacity directed in response to this fast moving disease resulted in its containment and eradication within eight months.
- » Response to monsoonal weather and flooding across Queensland, including:
  - » Beaudesert Floods (December 2007)
  - » Guru Floods (February 2008)
  - » Charleville Floods (March 2008)
  - » Emerald, Mackay and Rockhampton Floods (March 2008).
- » Endorsement of the *State Disaster Management Plan* (State Plan) in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DM Act).
- » State Disaster Management Review Steering Committee consideration of recommendations from the *Review of disaster management arrangements in Queensland* report, resulting in prioritisation of the areas relating to the State Plan, disaster district boundaries, evacuation planning and strategies to reduce community vulnerability to disasters.
- » Multi-agency support, led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), to the Queensland based Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2007 meetings, including the Senior Officers Meeting and the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Cairns and the Finance Ministers Meeting (FMM) in Coolumb.
- » Development of the *HazMat Incident Recovery Plan*, designed to facilitate effective and systematic coordination of multi-agency response and recovery for hazardous material (HazMat) incidents.
- » The Department of Emergency Services (DES) coordinated and conducted one of three Catastrophic Disaster Working Group (CDWG) workshops, a Brisbane-based scenario comprising an inner city building collapse, which focussed on response agencies' levels of preparedness to cope with large scale, man-made disasters.
- » Under the lead of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the finalisation of the *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter* planning guidelines.
- » Establishment of multi-agency Community Recovery Centres (One-Stop-Shops), led by the Department of Communities (DoC) and provision of outreach teams to visit households and determine the type of assistance required to assist recovery; including financial assistance, information on community recovery services and coordination of personal support and counselling to affected residents.
- » Continued focus on pandemic planning with the DPC development of Queensland Kits (Qkits), aimed at preparing businesses for pandemic influenza; inter-agency participation on the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce and the DoC led Pandemic Influenza Social Impact and Recovery Working Group, focussing on identifying the potential impacts of pandemic influenza on the Queensland community.
- » The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Conference: Disaster Planning, A 'How to' Workshop engaged and better prepared councils with more skills to undertake disaster management planning in their local communities.
- » The *Children and Young Persons' Disaster Management Resources* provided two innovative resources for disaster managers to effectively engage with children and young people in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.



» *Incorporating Disaster Management into Local Government Corporate Planning Practices* provided a comprehensive planning guideline to support the incorporation of disaster management into the core business of local government planning processes and practices. Workshops were held in eight regional centres for 100

elected officials and council officers to support the implementation of these guidelines. The guidelines promote a better understanding of the role of council in disaster management and better appreciation of internal plans and arrangements necessary to successfully achieve this role.



## Queensland's disaster management arrangements - an overview

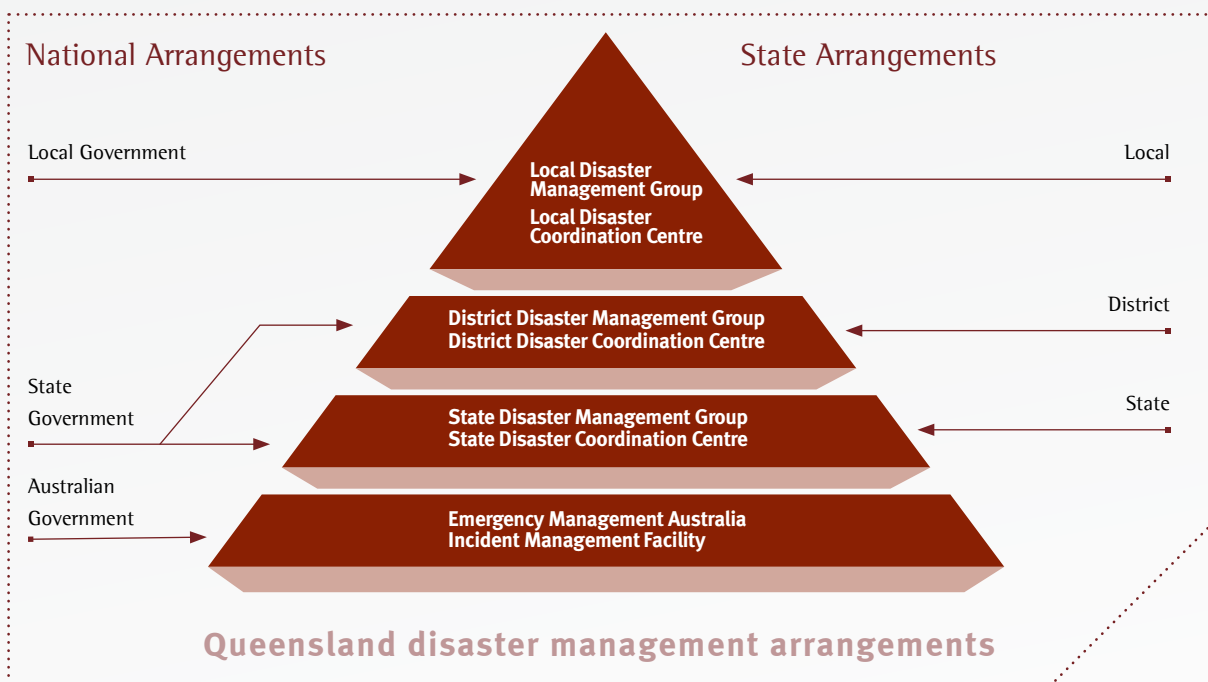
The DM Act provides the legislative basis for disaster management arrangements in Queensland including:

- » establishing disaster management groups for the State, disaster districts and local government areas
- » detailing planning requirements at each level
- » maintaining the role and operations of the State Emergency Service (SES) and establishment of Emergency Service Units
- » providing for the conferring of powers on selected individuals and groups.

Queensland's whole-of-Government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnership between government, government-owned corporations, non-government organisations (NGOs), commerce and industry sectors and the local community. These

arrangements recognise each level of the disaster management arrangements working collaboratively to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.

The Australian disaster management arrangements are formed around the three levels of government: Local, State and the Australian Government. Queensland disaster management arrangements acknowledge the three levels of government. However they are based on a four-tiered system which includes an additional State Government tier between local government and State Government known as disaster districts to enable more efficient and effective operational service delivery in support of the local community.



Queensland's arrangements complement and contribute to the development of disaster management strategic policy and planning at the national level. Queensland is represented on a range of national committees which ensure cooperation and coordination of disaster management initiatives across Australia. Examples of these forums are the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management

(MCPPEM) which considers high-level policy issues and the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC), made up of senior government officials, which progresses strategic initiatives. National, state, functional agency and threat-specific plans have been developed for natural and non-natural hazards and disasters.

The disaster management arrangements in Queensland are made up of several key management and coordination structures through which the functions of disaster management for Queensland are achieved.

The principal structures comprising the Queensland disaster management arrangements are:

- » disaster management groups operating at local, district and state levels are responsible for the planning, organisation, coordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate/prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters
- » coordination centres at local, district and state levels support disaster management groups in coordinating information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations
- » State Government functional agencies through which the functions and responsibilities of the State in relation to disaster management are managed and coordinated
- » State Government threat-specific agencies responsible for the management and coordination of combating threats.

## Local Government

The functions of a local government under the DM Act are to:

- » ensure it has a disaster response capability (as outlined under s80(2) of the DM Act)
- » approve its Local Disaster Management Plan (Local Plan) prepared under part 3 of the DM Act
- » ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) for the disaster district in which it is situated
- » perform other functions given to the local government under the DM Act.

Local government is best situated to provide first-hand knowledge and understanding of social, economic, infrastructure and environmental issues within their communities. Additionally local governments are ideally placed to support their communities from a disaster management perspective. This is achieved through their local group.

## Local Disaster Management Groups

Local groups are established to support local government disaster management activities. The local group is supported by the relevant district group if and when disaster management activities exceed the capacity of a local group and when the coordination of more than one local government is required.

The functions of the local group include (but are not limited to\*):

- » developing, regularly reviewing and assessing effective disaster management
- » assisting local government to prepare a Local Plan
- » ensuring the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster
- » identifying and coordinating resources that may be used for disaster operations at the local level
- » managing disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group
- » ensuring disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State group's Strategic Policy Framework (SPF) for disaster management for the State.

*\* Refer to s30 of the DM Act for a complete list of functions of the Local Group*

The Mayor, or another elected member of the council, is the chairperson of the local group. Local groups play a key role in the disaster management arrangements for Queensland and are best placed to decide what resources are needed, when they are needed and how best to apply such resources to minimise hardship and suffering.

## Local Government Reform – affects on District and Local Groups

In 2007, the Queensland Government accepted the independent Local Government Reform (LGR) Commission's recommendations on the most appropriate structure and boundaries for local governments in Queensland to ensure local government sustainability. This resulted in the reduction of Queensland councils from 157 to 73 at the council elections held on 15 March 2008.

The amalgamated local governments are working through the impact of the reform on disaster



management arrangements across their respective jurisdictions. This will involve appointment of new local group members and executive officers, merging previous disaster management plans into one plan, reassessment of local disaster hazards and risks, re-identification of resources available for disaster operations in the area and revision of local operational capacity and capability. The impact on current arrangements for local groups is outlined in the Local Government Reform Implementation Regulations 2008.

## State Government

### District Disaster Management Groups

Established under the DM Act, district groups comprise representatives from regionally based government, government owned corporations and NGOs which can provide and coordinate whole-of-Government support and resource Government Asset Protection (GAP) assistance to disaster stricken communities. The district groups perform a 'middle management' function within the disaster management arrangements by providing coordinated State Government support when requested by local groups on behalf of local governments.

The district groups carry out a number of functions relating to disaster management. The primary functions are to:

- » ensure disaster management and disaster operations in the disaster district are consistent with the State group's SPF for disaster management for the State
- » develop effective disaster management for the district, including a district disaster management plan (District Plan) and to regularly review and assess disaster management arrangements
- » ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

### District Disaster Coordinator

The DDC, as Chair of the district group is responsible for:

- » managing and coordinating the business of the district group
- » ensuring, as far as practicable, that the district group performs its functions
- » coordinating disaster operations in the disaster district for the district group

- » reporting regularly to the State group on the performance of the district group.

The DDC may, with the approval of the Minister for Emergency Services, declare a disaster situation for part or all of a disaster district, enabling specific powers under the DM Act to be exercised.

The Police District Officer has been appointed by the Governor in Council as the DDC for each disaster district, with the exception of the Brisbane Disaster District. The Superintendent, Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch is the DDC for the Brisbane Disaster District.

It should be noted that when performing the role of Chairperson of a district group, a DDC is operating under provisions of the DM Act. In cases where a district group is convened in response to a disaster event, another police officer will generally be appointed to undertake the policing responsibilities of the DDC for the period concerned.

### State Disaster Management Group

The State group is established under the DM Act, which forms the legislative basis for disaster management activities and arrangements across all levels of government in Queensland. The State group is the peak disaster management policy and decision-making body in Queensland and is directly responsible to the Premier for outcomes. Under the DM Act, the main functions of the State group are to:

- » develop an SPF for disaster management for the State
- » ensure an effective disaster management system is developed and implemented for the State
- » ensure effective arrangements between the State and the Australian Government on matters relating to effective disaster management are established and maintained
- » identify resources within and outside the State that may be used for disaster response operations
- » provide reports and make recommendations to the Minister for Emergency Services about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations
- » prepare a State Plan.

## Membership

The State group is comprised of the Chief Executives of participating State Government departments and an Executive Officer (XO), appointed by the Governor in Council.

Current members consist of:

- » Director-General, Department of Communities
- » Director-General, Department of Emergency Services (Deputy Chairperson)
- » Executive Director, Emergency Management Queensland (XO)
- » Director-General, Queensland Health
- » Director-General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation
- » Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
- » Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Chairperson)
- » Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- » Director-General, Department of Public Works
- » Director-General, Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
- » Director-General, Queensland Transport

The State group may invite participants from a range of entities to participate in the business of the group in an advisory capacity on an 'ad hoc' basis. These advisors may be drawn from:

- » additional government agencies (federal, state, local)
- » government owned corporations
- » NGOs
- » commerce and industry.

Current advisors to the State group consist of:

- » Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts
- » Director-General, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
- » Director-General, Department of Housing
- » Director-General, Department of Mines and Energy
- » Director-General, Environmental Protection Agency
- » Australian Defence Force

The appointment of additional advisors to the State group is regularly reviewed to reflect current government priorities and the disaster management arrangements for Queensland.

The State group is further supported by the:

- » State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) – an operational coordination group
- » State Disaster Mitigation Committee (SDMC) – a mitigation policy and planning committee

Members of these committees are comprised of representatives from threat-specific and functional agencies, industry and commerce and NGOs.

## Executive Officer to the State Group

Under the DM Act the XO is responsible to undertake the following functions:

- » regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the State Plan
- » regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by district groups and local groups
- » establish and maintain arrangements between the State and the Australian Government about matters relating to effective disaster management
- » ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the State are consistent with the group's SPF for disaster management for the State
- » manage and coordinate the business of the group
- » coordinate State and Australian Government assistance for disaster management and disaster operations
- » ensure that persons performing functions under the DM Act in relation to disaster operations are properly trained
- » appoint, under s27, the XOs of district groups
- » regularly report to the State group about the performance of the XO's functions
- » support the State group in performance of its functions.

## Functional arrangements

- » To provide for the effective coordination of state-level capabilities in disaster management, Queensland has adopted the concept of 'functional agencies'. Each functional agency is responsible to the State group for the provision of specific State Government services, expertise and support as needed to local communities or to the Queensland Government prior to, during and after disaster events.
- » Functional agencies are nominated on the basis of machinery of government agency roles. The specific requirements for each function are outlined in the State Plan and agency functional plans. The allocation of functional responsibilities to government agencies is outlined in the following table:

Function	Agency
Building and engineering services	Department of Public Works
Communications infrastructure	Department of Public Works
Community recovery	Department of Communities
Coordination of the disaster management system in Queensland	Department of Emergency Services through Emergency Management Queensland
Dam safety/flooding	Department of Natural Resources and Water
Electricity/fuel/gas supply	Department of Mines and Energy
Emergency supply	Department of Public Works
Health	Queensland Health
Transport and transport engineering	Queensland Transport



## Threat-specific arrangements

In addition to functional agency responsibilities, Queensland has identified a number of specific potential threats where government departments and agencies have a designated role. These agencies are allocated responsibility to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from the specific threats based on agency core business.

The disaster management arrangements in Queensland can be activated to coordinate resources in support of agency operations as required, and can be invoked to manage the wider consequences of a specific threat under arrangements described above.

The current allocation of threat-specific responsibilities to government departments is outlined below:

Threat	Agency
» Biological	Queensland Health
» Bushfire	Department of Emergency Services through Rural Operations, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
» Chemical	Department of Emergency Services through Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
» Environmental	Environmental Protection Agency
» Exotic/aquatic animal disease	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
» Plant disease	
» Major Crime	Queensland Police Service
» Oil spill at sea	Queensland Transport through Maritime Safety Queensland
» Pandemic influenza	Queensland Health
» Radiological	Queensland Health

## Australian Government

Prime responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment rests with the states and territories. However, the Australian Government is committed to supporting states and territories in developing their capacity for dealing with emergencies and disasters and provides physical assistance to requesting states or territories when they cannot reasonably cope during an emergency. Under Australia's Constitution the Australian Government is

allocated responsibility for external affairs, including the provision of humanitarian assistance for emergency and refugee relief overseas.

The Federal Attorney-General is responsible for disaster-related matters. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is nominated as the agency responsible for planning and coordinating Australian Government physical assistance to the states and territories under the *Australian Government Disaster Response Plan* (COMDISPLAN). Coordination of these functions is carried out from the national Incident Management Facility.



# Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

Development of an SPF for disaster management for the State is a function of the State group under the DM Act. Queensland's Disaster Management SPF was endorsed by the State group in February 2006.

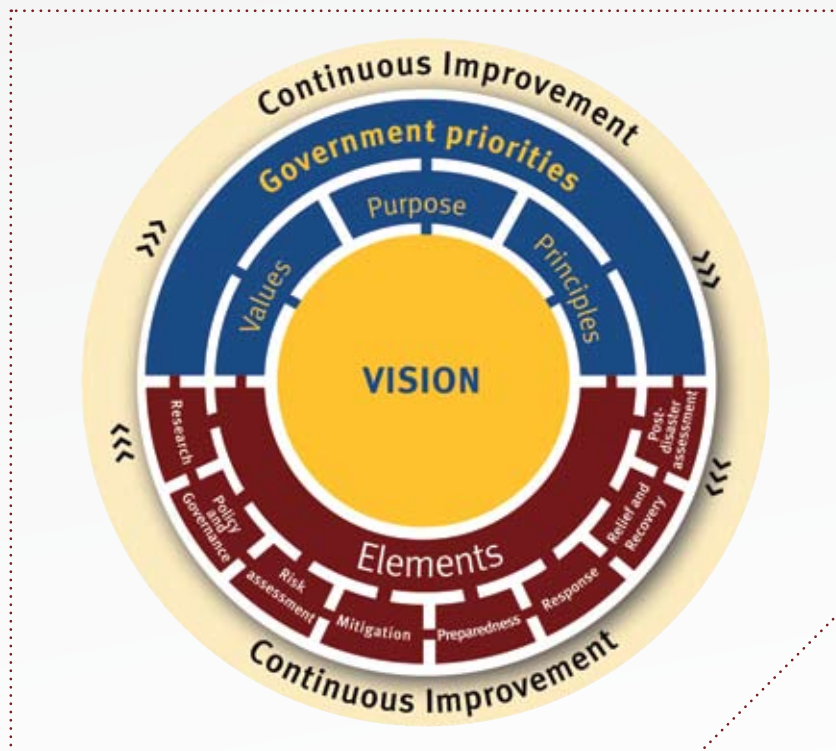
The SPF aims to:

- » articulate the vision and goals for disaster management for the State in line with the objectives of the DM Act
- » outline the strategic direction to guide the development of disaster management policies and programs for Queensland
- » focus on a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management
- » align the strategic direction for disaster risk reduction with international and national reforms
- » mainstream disaster mitigation into relevant areas of activity of government, NGOs, small business and corporations
- » outline the governance and accountability arrangements in place that support the achievement of disaster management priorities.

In line with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*, the SPF identifies elements of disaster management as follows:

- » disaster research
- » policy and governance
- » disaster risk assessment
- » disaster mitigation
- » disaster preparedness
- » disaster response
- » disaster relief and recovery
- » post-disaster assessment.

Initiatives undertaken across the Queensland disaster management arrangements are reported on under these elements within the Agency Contributions section of this annual report.



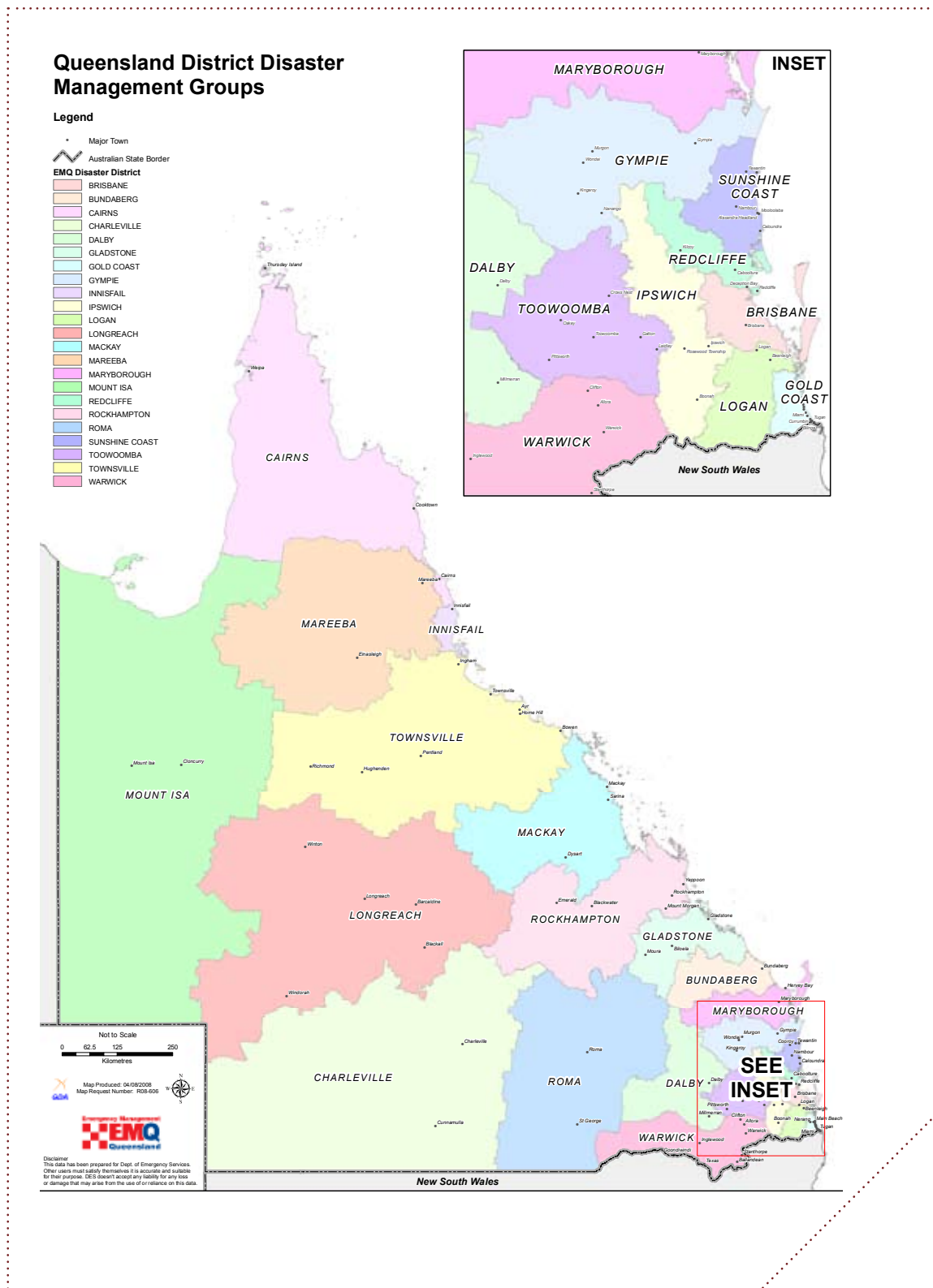
Further information and a copy of the SPF can be obtained from: [www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications).

A copy of the COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)* can be obtained from: <http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/policy.jsp#COAG>

## District Group Contributions

Established under the DM Act, the district groups comprise representatives from regionally based government, government owned corporations and NGOs which provide and coordinate whole-of-Government support to disaster stricken communities. The districts perform a regional management function on

behalf of the State group within the disaster management arrangements. When requested by local groups on behalf of local governments, district groups provide coordinated State Government support through regional government and NGOs.





## Disaster District Profile

### Post 2008 Local Government Amalgamations

The table below reflects, as closely as possible, the interim alignment of local groups to district groups following the recent LGR. It is acknowledged that the interim

arrangement does not align to the current Governor in Council endorsement, which is now out of date due to the LGR. A review of disaster district boundaries is currently in progress and a regulation to reflect agreed changes will be sought once the review finalised.

District Group	Local Disaster Management Groups by Disaster District		Population (Approx.)	Size of District – km2 (Approx.)
Brisbane	Brisbane	Redlands	1,900,000	1,455
Bundaberg	Bundaberg	North Burnett	120,000	26,089
Cairns	Aurukun Cairns Cook Hope Vale Kowanyama Lockhart River Mapoon Napranum	Northern – Peninsula Area Pompuraaw Torres Torres Strait Weipa Wujal Wujal Yarabah	191,461	600,000
Charleville	Blackall-Tambo Bulloo Murweh	Quilpie Paroo	9,842	243,018
Dalby	Dalby		30,018	38,039
Gladstone	Banana	Gladstone	68,198	39,065
Gold Coast	Gold Coast		500,000	1,334
Gympie	Cherbourg Gympie	South Burnett	72,122	23,346
Innisfail	Cassowary Coast		31,715	4,701
Ipswich	Ipswich	Somerset	160,000	6,586
Logan	Logan	Scenic Rim	296,600	5,213
Longreach	Barcaldine Barcoo	Longreach Winton	12,143	239,415
Mackay	Isaac Mackay	Whitsunday	147,000	68,479
Mareeba	Croydon Etheridge	Tablelands	42,105	132,153
Maryborough	Fraser Coast		85,000	7,166
Mount Isa	Boulia Burke Carpentaria Cloncurry Diamantina	Doomadgee McKinlay Mornington Mount Isa	40,000	399,230
Redcliffe	Moreton Bay		337,846	2,011
Rockhampton	Central Highlands Rockhampton	Woorabinda	131,033	75,090
Roma	Balonne	Roma	23,491	114,732
Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast		295,125	3,123
Toowoomba	Lockyer Valley	Toowoomba	171,283	14,973
Townsville	Burdekin Charters Towers Flinders Hinchinbrook	Palm Island Richmond Townsville	217,293	167,338
Warwick	Southern Downs	Goondiwindi	37,000	26,370

## Corporate Governance

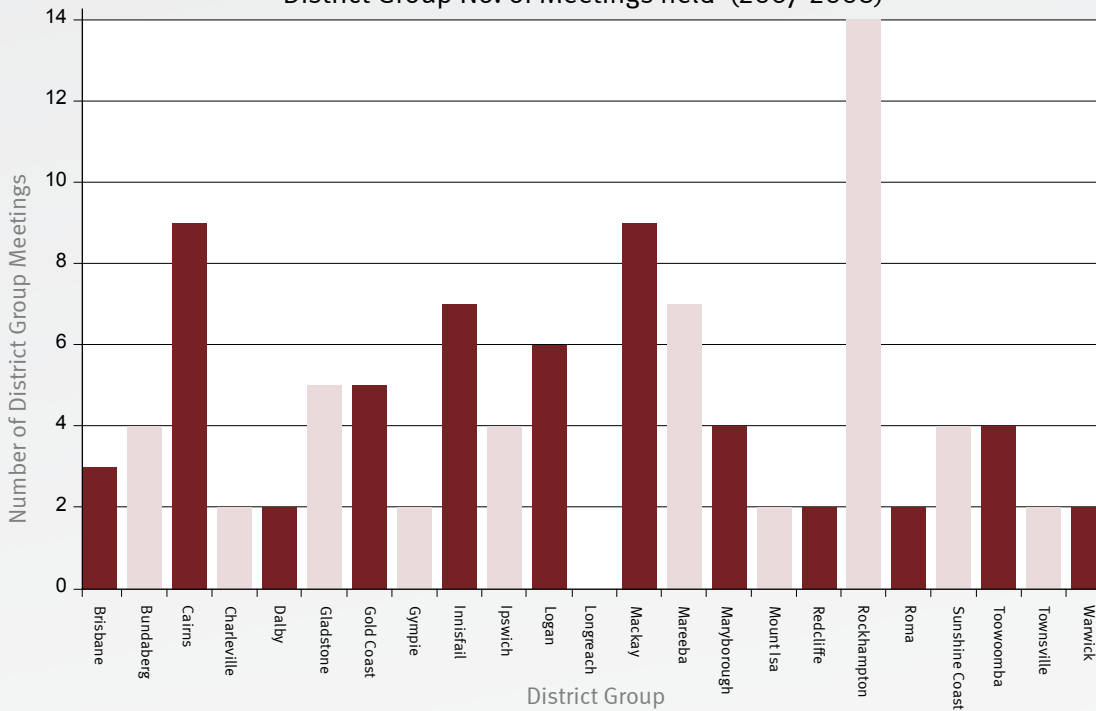
In accordance with the DM Act, district groups are required to meet a number of corporate governance requirements:

- » Disaster management groups must hold meetings at least once in every six months (s39).
- » A quorum is the number equal to one-half of its members for the time being holding office plus one, or, if one-half of its members for the time being holding office is not a whole number, the next highest whole number (s40).
- » Disaster management groups must keep minutes of meetings (s43).
- » The State group must prepare and give the Minister for Emergency Services a written report about disaster management in the State (s44).
- » District groups contribute to the State group annual report by providing a district annual report in accordance with s23, whereby district groups are required to provide reports and make recommendations to the State group about matters relating to disaster management and disaster

District Group	No. of Ordinary & Extraordinary Meetings held (2007-2008)	Quorums achieved (Yes/No)	Minutes kept (Yes/No)	Annual Report submitted (2007-2008)	Corporate Governance Legislative Requirements achieved (Yes/No)
Brisbane	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bundaberg	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cairns	9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charleville	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dalby	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gladstone	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gold Coast	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gympie	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Innisfail	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ipswich	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logan	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Longreach	0	No	No	Yes	No
Mackay	9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mareeba	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryborough	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mount Isa	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Redcliffe	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rockhampton	14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roma	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sunshine Coast	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toowoomba	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Townsville	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warwick	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*\* NB - the DDC and other members of the Longreach district group were involved in response, preparation and planning to the significant flood events that impacted on central and southern Queensland in the early part of 2008. The recording of these and other activities of this district group for 2007-2008, however, were affected by changes to key district group personnel during this period, including the DDC, Operations Officer, and EMQ Regional and Area Directors. These positions have now stabilised. Additionally, the conduct of ordinary meetings during 2007-2008 of this group was delayed while the impact of local government amalgamations on district responsibilities was assessed. The Longreach district group held its first meeting for the 2008-2009 period in December 2008 and is scheduled to meet again in April 2009*

District Group No. of Meetings held (2007-2008)



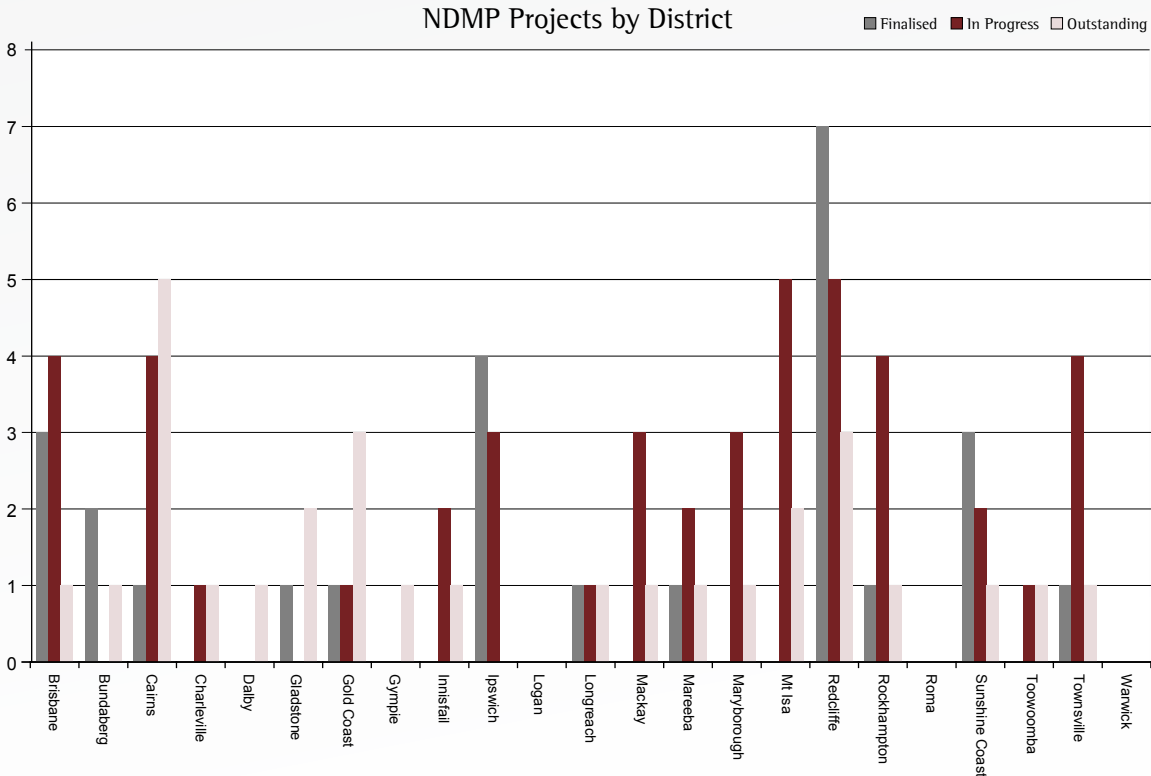
## Disaster Mitigation

### Natural Disaster Mitigation Program

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) is a national program aimed at identifying and addressing natural disaster risk priorities across the nation. The types of projects recommended include natural disaster

risk management studies, storm tide studies, flood mitigation projects, bushfire mitigation projects and other related mitigation measures and activities that contribute to safer, sustainable communities better able to withstand the effects of natural disasters. This program is available to local agencies responsible for disaster management and disaster mitigation works and state and territory government agencies where that agency is the relevant responsible agency.

NDMP Projects by District



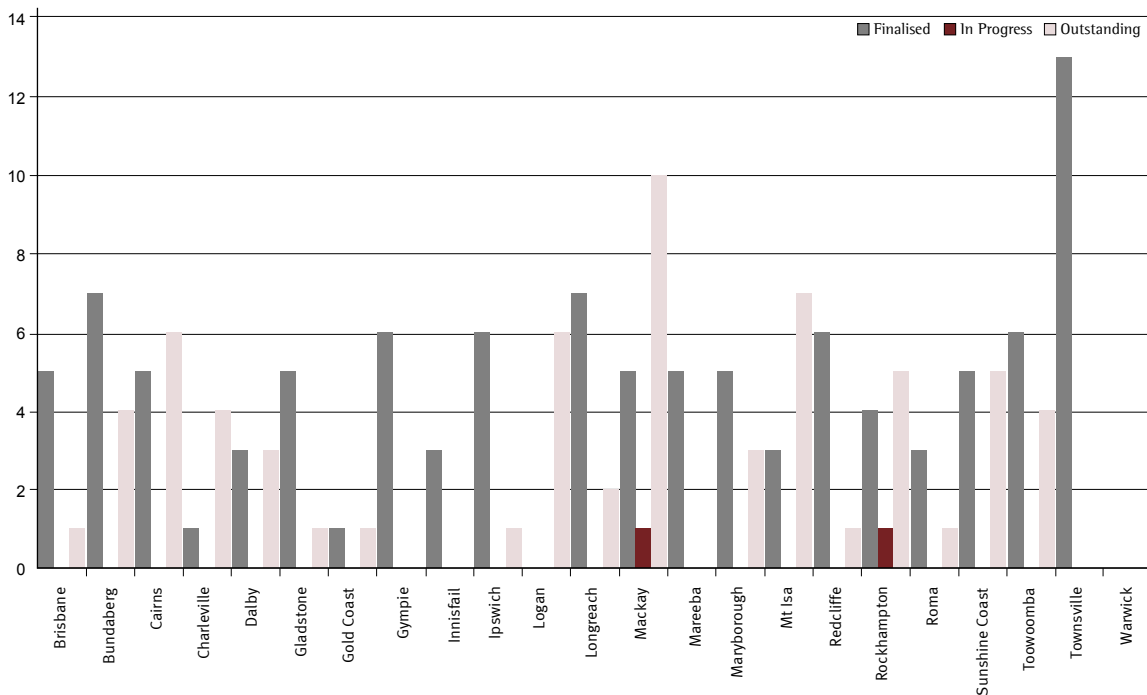


## Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program

The Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program ceased as at 30 June 2005 and was amalgamated with the NDMP. The purpose of the program was to encourage state and local governments

to undertake worthwhile risk management studies to identify, analyse, and evaluate risks from natural disasters.

### Programs by District



## Disaster Preparedness

A function of the district group under s23(b) of the DM Act is to develop effective disaster management for the disaster district. This includes:

- » developing a District Plan in accordance with s53 of the DM Act
- » regularly reviewing and assessing disaster management for the disaster district

- » regularly reviewing and assessing the disaster management of local groups in the district.

Amalgamated local governments are now required to review current disaster management plans and prepare and endorse a single Local Plan. The review of Local Plans will require District Plans to be reviewed following the endorsement of Local Plans by local governments.

## District Disaster Management Plans

District Group	District Plan - Status
Brisbane	A review commenced in November 2006 to produce new plans including an update of legislation, membership and operational practices.
Bundaberg	An annual review of the District Plan is undertaken in conjunction with pre-season meetings and exercises. The 2007-2008 review process was placed on hold until after the implementation of LGR, due to significant changes expected to local government structures within the Bundaberg Disaster District.
Cairns	The District Plan was significantly updated in 2005 and is reviewed annually and updated with necessary amendments.
Charleville	The District Plan and all supporting functional plans are reviewed and revised annually or as determined by exercises, operations or administrative requirements. Review of the District Plan is scheduled for completion by 1 October of each year, with the 2007 review completed by this date.
Dalby	The District Plan has not been reviewed in the 2007-2008 period due to recent LGR implementation; however a review will commence once the Local Plan has been reviewed.
Gladstone	A review of the District Plan is currently being undertaken in response to the functional group status reports and updated Local Plans.
Gold Coast	The District Plan is reviewed on an annual basis through exercises, actual events and meetings. In 2008-2009 an extensive review of both the District Plan and Gold Coast City Council Local Plan is being undertaken through 'Project Shield'.
Gympie	The District Plan was updated following exercises, actual events and meetings held during 2007-2008. It has been identified that an in-depth review is required, planned for completion by June 2009.
Innisfail	The District Plan was significantly updated in 2005 and is reviewed annually and updated with necessary amendments.
Ipswich	A full review of the District Plan was completed in 2007. The recent LGR requires a further review of the plan, to occur during 2008-2009.
Logan	The District Plan was rewritten in October 2007. The District Plan is reviewed on an annual basis and is updated continually through exercises, actual events and meetings.
Longreach	The District Plan was written in 2005 and is reviewed annually, with amendments made as required.
Mackay	The District Plan was last rewritten in May 2003. The District Plan will be re-evaluated on review of the Local Plans.
Mareeba	The District Plan is reviewed and updated as required in October each year.
Maryborough	An annual review of the District Plan is undertaken in conjunction with pre-season meetings and exercises. The 2007-2008 review process was placed on hold until after the implementation of LGR, due to significant changes expected to local government structures within the Maryborough Disaster District.
Mount Isa	The District Plan was reviewed and completely re-written during 2008.
Redcliffe	A review is expected to occur as soon as new LGR arrangements are in place.
Rockhampton	The District Plan is to be reviewed during 2008-2009 to identify risk management and mitigation issues.
Roma	The District Plan and all supporting functional plans are reviewed annually or as determined by exercises, operations or administrative requirements. Review of the District Plan is scheduled for completion by 1 October of each year, with the 2007 review completed by this date.
Sunshine Coast	The District Plan is currently being re-written due to recent LGR. The old version will continue to be updated through exercises, actual events and meetings until the new version is endorsed.
Toowoomba	The District Plan is reviewed annually; however necessary changes are incorporated outside of this review schedule when required. During 2007-2008 the plan was amended to account for LGR implementation.
Townsville	The District Plan was completely re-written in 2005 to comply with the current guidelines. The District Plan was further reviewed in 2007 and the 2008 review was recently completed to reflect LGR.
Warwick	The Warwick District Plan was reviewed in May 2008. The plan will be re-written to align with planning guidelines being developed by Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) South West Region this coming year. All Disaster District arrangements incorporated within the plan are assessed annually by means of exercise, with incorporation of relevant amendments.

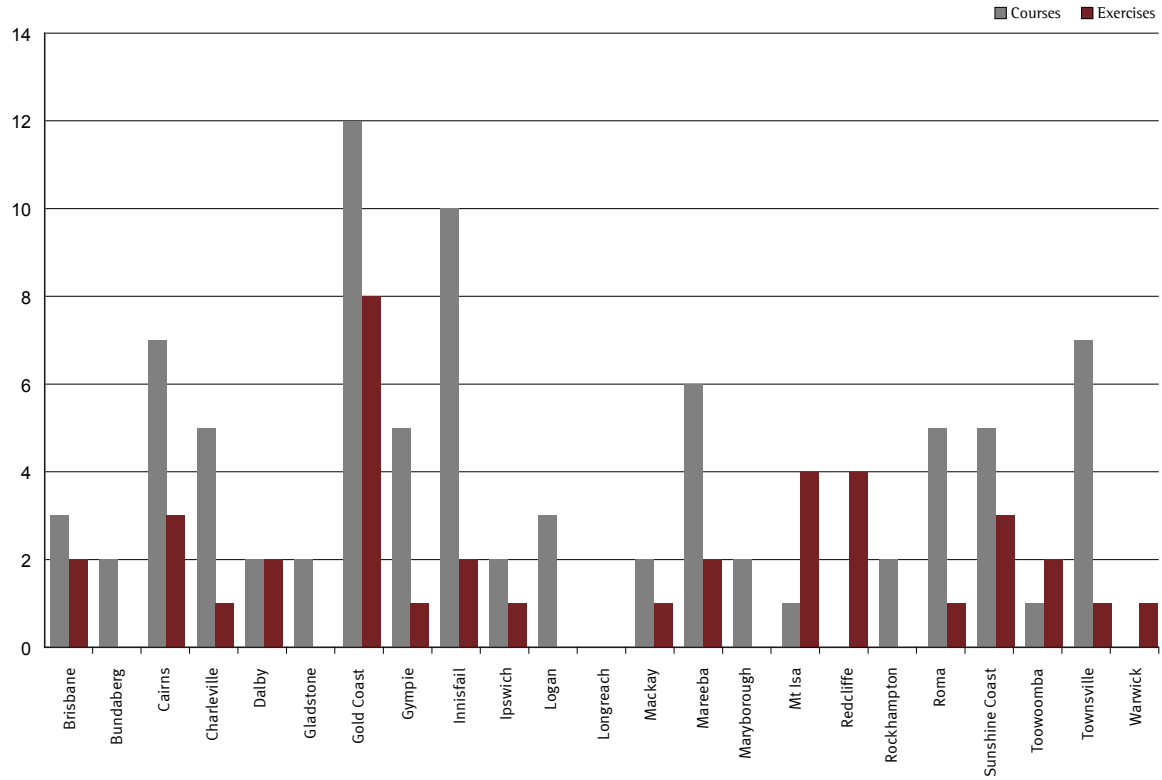
## Local Disaster Management Plans

District Group	Local Plans - Status
Brisbane	The Brisbane Local Plan has undergone a review and has been endorsed by the Brisbane City Council. Work is in progress within the Redlands City Council, which has employed a consultant to develop a Local Plan based on the new emergency management guidelines.
Bundaberg	Local Plan reviews were limited to ensuring key contact details were maintained during the lead up to the LGR. Both Bundaberg and North Burnett Regional Councils commenced major Local Plan reviews in March 2008.
Cairns	Local Plans within Cairns District were reviewed prior to the 2007 Cyclone Season. The Local Plan review and assessment is undertaken annually.
Charleville	Bulloo, Murweh, Paroo and Quilpie Shire Local Plans were reviewed in November 2007 and Tambo Shire reviewed their Local Plan in May 2008.
Dalby	The Local Plan is being reviewed following LGR. Local groups continue to operate under interim arrangements during the amalgamation process. The former Local Plans are currently being reviewed (Dalby, Tara, Murilla and Chinchilla) and then will be combined to form part of the District Plan.
Gladstone	Gladstone City Council and Banana Regional Council acknowledge the LGR requirements regarding Local Plans and expect completion within the specified deadlines.
Gold Coast	Gold Coast City Council is conducting a major review of its Local Plan in conjunction with a review of the District Plan under 'Project Shield'. The operational sub-plans will be reviewed also as part of this process; expected to be completed in 2009.
Gympie	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council and South Burnett and Gympie Regional Councils have employed a consultant to update Local Plans following the LGR. Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council and South Burnett Regional Council intend to apply for approval to unite for the purpose of establishing a local group.
Innisfail	Cassowary Coast Local Plan has been completely re-written and is pending endorsement.
Ipswich	Ipswich City Council Local Plan was reviewed in 2006-2007. A full review following the LGR is currently being conducted and will be completed in 2009. Somerset Regional Council Local Plan is currently being reviewed following amalgamation of Esk and Kilcoy Shire Councils and is expected to be presented to Council for endorsement in late 2008 following final amendments. A full review of the Esk Local Plan was conducted in 2007-2008.
Logan	Logan City Council Local Plan has been amended following LGR. Operational Sub-Plans are currently being reviewed to reflect changes. Scenic Rim Regional Council Local Plan has been amended following the LGR and endorsed by Council.
Longreach	Longreach and Barcaldine Local Plans are being reviewed following the recent LGR.
Mackay	Mackay, Whitsundays and Isaac Regional Councils are currently reviewing the Local Plans.
Mareeba	Croydon and Tablelands Local Plans are currently being updated. Etheridge Local Plan is completed and pending endorsement.
Maryborough	Local Plan reviews were limited to ensuring key contact details were maintained during the lead up to the LGR. It has been identified that the existing Local Plans of the previous local governments of Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Tiara and Woocoo will require a major review to form the Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Plan.
Mount Isa	All Local Plans were reviewed in the 2007-2008 period. As a result of the review, Mount Isa and Boulia Local Plans were re-written.
Redcliffe	Moreton Bay Regional Council is in the process of reviewing the previous Local Plans to create a single plan in line with the recent LGR.
Rockhampton	Central Highlands, Rockhampton and Woorabinda Local Groups are currently reviewing the Local Plans.

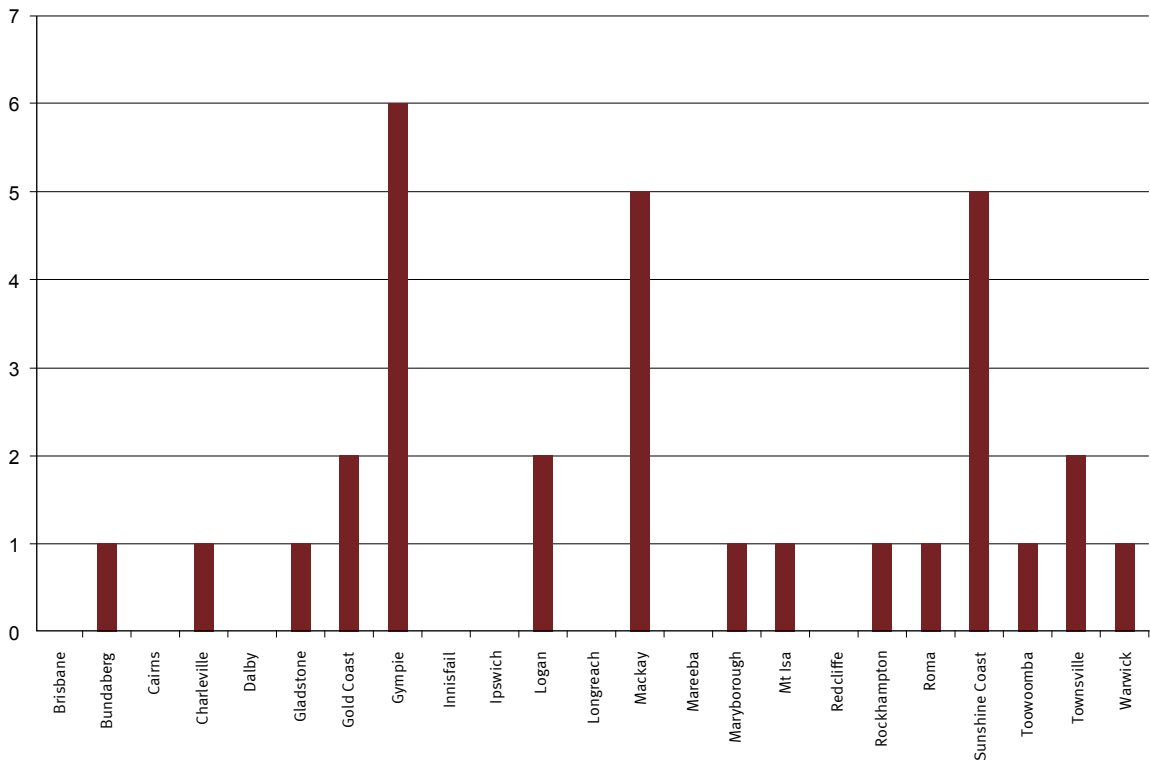
Roma	Balonne and Roma Regional Council Local Plan are reviewed on an annual basis by the local group. The communication strategy within the plan was exercised through testing of contact details with amendments made accordingly.
Sunshine Coast	Caloundra City, Maroochydore and Noosa Local Plans are currently being amalgamated to reflect the LGR. The new plan is expected to be completed by December 2008. In the interim, the three current plans will be used if required.
Toowoomba	Local Plans will undergo a review and re-write following the amalgamation of respective Councils. Local groups continue to operate under interim arrangements during the amalgamation process. Toowoomba Regional Council is currently in the process of appointing a Disaster Management Coordinator who will oversee the re-write of the Local Plan.
Townsville	Local Plans are reviewed annually by the district group, in particular changes to demographics and community risks. Burdekin and Hinchinbrook Local Plans were both reviewed during 2007-2008. Richmond, Flinders and Charters Towers are currently being reviewed and re-written. Palm Island was completed during 2007 and endorsed by Council in February 2008. Townsville is currently undertaking a re-write following LGR. Bowen has updated their Local Plan to include study outcomes.
Warwick	The Local Plan will undergo a re-write following LGR resulting in the amalgamation of respective Councils. The Local Plans will be reviewed on completion. Local groups have operated under interim arrangements during LGR implementation.



## District Disaster Management Courses/ Exercises Conducted



## District Disaster Response



## District Disaster Relief and Recovery (by exception)

### Gold Coast

- » The DoC provided recovery support in conjunction with the disaster response to the SEQ flooding of Christmas 2007/New Year 2008. This support resulted in delivering assistance to Gold Coast Hinterland citizens who were impacted by heavy flooding rains.

### Mackay Disaster District

- » The Mackay District Disaster Recovery Plan was activated on five occasions as a result of storm and flooding events in Whitsunday (x2), Mackay (x1), Belyando (x1), and Finch Hatton (x1). In the case of Belyando the recovery is concentrated on the primary industry area with some severe impact on the beef and grain industries. The Mackay flooding event of 15 February 2008 resulted in substantial damage to residential housing, businesses and infrastructure.

The recovery process for these two areas in particular will be difficult and long term. The community recovery team for the Mackay District has been particularly active in ensuring that all issues are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner.

### Rockhampton Disaster District

- » Recovery is ongoing in the Central Highlands Regional Council area, particularly in the Gemfields and Emerald areas. DoC is still involved in this recovery phase. A Central Queensland Recovery Task Force has been established to coordinate the ongoing economic recovery issues.

### Warwick Disaster District

- » During the EI outbreak a One-Stop-Shop was established at Morgan Park incorporating DoC, Centrelink and Red Cross.



Photo Courtesy of Queensland News

## State Group Corporate Governance

### Reporting Requirements

As per legislative requirements, detailed in the DM Act, s44(2), the annual report must include:

- » information on activities undertaken during the financial year to maintain or enhance the State's disaster management
- » details of disaster operations performed during the financial year
- » information about disaster management priorities
- » other disaster management matters as appropriate.

State group member and advisor contributions for the 2007-2008 annual report are consistent with the elements of the SPF. The following table provides an overview of the application of each of these elements:

ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Disaster Research	Use collaborative and best practice research to inform disaster management and improve the effectiveness of disaster management principles, policy development and practices	(a) Formal partnerships established with researchers (b) Research outcomes inform disaster management policy development and practice
Policy & Governance	Disaster management outcomes are achieved through the development and implementation of sound policy and effective corporate governance	(c) Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the disaster management system (d) Legislative requirements are supported by disaster management policies
Disaster Risk Assessment	Disaster risk assessments are used to protect life and property and contribute to sustainable development	(e) Comprehensive disaster risk assessments are complete, relevant and updated regularly
Disaster Mitigation	Reduced risk and enhanced community resilience	(f) Mitigation priorities are determined by evidence of disaster risk assessments
Disaster Preparedness	Create aware and prepared communities	(g) Increased level of community disaster awareness. (h) Increased level of community disaster preparedness (i) Disaster management plans are in place at all levels of the disaster management system
Disaster Response	The impacts of a disaster are minimised by effective and efficient disaster response	(j) All disasters are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner
Disaster Relief & Recovery	Improved functions of communities following a disaster	(k) Relief and recovery arrangements are properly integrated into disaster management arrangements
Post-Disaster Assessment	Post-disaster assessment strengthens Queensland's disaster management capability	(l) Lessons learnt from disaster events and disaster management exercises are embedded into disaster management planning

### Legislative Requirements

In accordance with the DM Act, the State group must meet a number of corporate governance requirements:

- » Disaster management groups must hold meetings at least once in every six months (s39).
- » A quorum is the number equal to one-half of its members for the time being holding office plus one or, if one-half of its members for the time being holding office is not a whole number, the next highest whole number (s40).
- » Disaster management groups must keep minutes of its meetings (s43).
- » The State group must prepare and give the Minister of Emergency Services a written report about disaster management in the State (s44).

During the 2007-2008 reporting year, the State group fulfilled corporate governance requirements by attending Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings and passing resolutions through out-of-session endorsement processes.

# State Group Member Agency Contributions

## Department of the Premier and Cabinet

### Disaster Policy and Governance

#### Public Information Arrangements

- » DPC developed and implemented the Queensland Government Arrangements for Coordinating Public Information in a Crisis, which were endorsed by the State group in April 2008. Through these arrangements, a Crisis Communication Network can be activated to provide leadership for the many cross-government communication activities that occur as a result of an incident and to assist agencies harmonise their activities and messages.

#### State Disaster Management Plan

- » DPC participated on a working group convened by the DES to develop the State Plan. Following endorsement of the State Plan by the State group, DPC will continue to work with other agencies to further enhance the plan through the development of a state risk register, operational level documents and recovery arrangements.

#### State Disaster Management Review

- » Following the government's consideration of the review of disaster management arrangements in Queensland, a steering committee comprising of the chief executive officers of DPC, DES and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) was established to progress the review's recommendations. The steering committee has considered each of the report's 22 recommendations and prioritised the recommendations relating to the State Plan, disaster district boundaries, evacuation planning and strategies to reduce community vulnerability to disasters.

#### Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan

- » DPC assisted DES with the development of the *HazMat Incident Recovery Plan*. This plan is designed to facilitate effective and systematic coordination in the recovery from HazMat incidents through an effective multi-agency response.

### Disaster Preparedness

#### Support to APEC 2007

- » DPC led the multi-agency group that prepared for and provided the protective security, emergency response and health services support to the Queensland-based APEC 2007 meetings, including the Senior Officers Meeting in Cairns (22 June-3 July 2007); the Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Cairns (5-6 July 2007) and the FMM at Coolum (30 July-3 August 2007).

#### Tsunami Preparedness

- » DPC contributed to the development of the tsunami preparedness planning for Queensland, particularly in the area of community warnings.

#### Emergency Warnings

- » DPC coordinated the development of an agreement and protocol between the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Queensland Government for emergency broadcasts on ABC Radio. This agreement enables DES, Queensland Health (Q-Health), QPS and DPC to work with the ABC to deliver public warnings quickly in times of an emergency, be it a natural disaster, public health emergency or terrorism situation.

#### Pandemic Preparedness

- » DPC published a series of Qkits to assist infrastructure owners and operators, small to medium businesses and the funeral industry prepare their businesses for pandemic influenza.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

#### Queensland Floods

- » DPC provided support for the Queensland Government response to the statewide monsoonal flooding in January and February 2008, particularly relating to the establishment of arrangements with the Australian Government for financial assistance to those affected, coordination of public information at a whole-of-Government level, and establishment of the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal.



## Post-Disaster Assessment

### Counter-Terrorism

- » DPC progressed a range of counter-terrorism initiatives that contributed to disaster preparedness, including:
  - » coordination of the development and implementation of the *Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2008 – 2010*, the *Queensland Counter-Terrorism Plan* and the *Queensland Manual for Protecting National Security Information*
  - » implementation of an information management system to enhance critical information sharing between agencies linked to the State Crisis and Communication Centre
  - » implementation of an Automated Notification System to affect the passing of counter-terrorism and disaster management information to government and private sector stakeholders
  - » implementation of the *Queensland Plan for the Protecting of Mass Gatherings and Events from Terrorism*, including providing a mass-gatherings website incorporating guides and tools and forming a government-industry network.

### Future Priorities

#### Pandemic Preparedness

- » During 2008-2009 DPC will coordinate Queensland's participation in Exercise Sustain 08, the COAG Pandemic Influenza Exercise Series. DPC will host a national discussion exercise in August 2008 to evaluate the co-ordination of public information and participate in a functional exercise scheduled for November 2008 to evaluate policy and decision-making processes during a pandemic.

#### Counter Terrorism

- » In October 2008, DPC will participate in the multi-jurisdictional exercise (MJEX) *Mercury 08*, to test national counter-terrorism arrangements with a focus on consequence management as well as aspects of high-level decision making, information and intelligence management, recovery and public information arrangements, and counter-terrorism investigations. DPC will coordinate a series of five, one-day workshops commencing in September 2008 and leading into the functional deployment exercise.

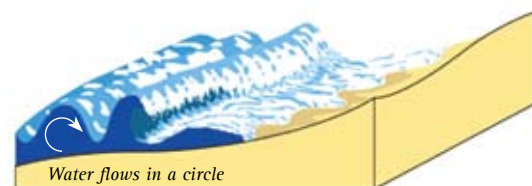
## Department of Emergency Services

### Disaster Research

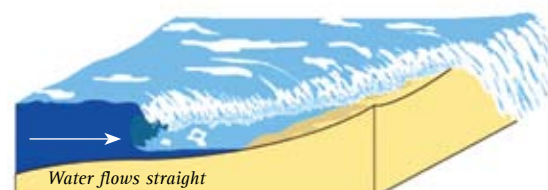
- » Through an internship program, DES promoted research into disaster governance best practice, flood insurance and support to families of emergency services employees deployed for operations.
- » DES is a partner with:
  - » Griffith University on the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility funded by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change.
  - » Queensland University of Technology on an ARC-Linkage project developing a tool to assess eco-environmental health vulnerability in light of climate change within SEQ.
- » Participation by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) representatives in:
  - » State CDWG exercises
  - » Gold Coast City Council CDWG.

### Tsunami Planning – Options for Queensland Disaster Managers

- » The purpose of this research was to outline the tsunami planning options available to disaster managers, based on national and international best practice. This research task involved a review of the current state of tsunami planning within Queensland, Australia and internationally to identify best practice management approaches and the range of planning tools currently available to disaster managers.



Wind waves come and go without flooding higher areas.



Tsunamis run quickly over the land as a wall of water

Picture courtesy of University of Washington

- » The review of national and international tsunami planning illustrated a range of options (from sub-plans to State-level guidelines) which will inform Queensland's approach to mitigating potential tsunami impacts and effectively managing and responding to an event. EMQ tabled a summary of these options for discussion with state hazard managers at the tsunami planning and awareness workshops conducted from April to June 2008. This included:
  - » threat specific tsunami sub-plans, or stand alone plans, at the local and regional level
  - » planning guidelines to assist hazard managers to address tsunami within the existing all-hazards framework (tsunami addressed within existing disaster management plans and operational guidelines).

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » DES provided advice and support to the:
  - » Director-General DES in his role as a member of the AEMC
  - » Minister for Emergency Services in his role as member of the MCPPEM - Emergency Management.
- » DES developed an online project management tool, Emergency Policy Online, which has been adopted by EMA to manage inter-jurisdictional activities of the AEMC Strategic Management Group.
- » DES provided Secretariat support to the State group through the:
  - » Director-General DES in his role as Deputy Chair of the State group
  - » Executive Director EMQ in his role as the XO to the State group.
- » The Secretariat function, administered through EMQ, supported the State group through:
  - » Four Ordinary meetings
  - » 19 Extraordinary meetings (1 x north coast flooding, 7 x EI and 11 x Queensland floods)
  - » preparation of the 2007-2008 State group annual report
  - » preparation of the State Plan.
- » EMQ Disaster Management Governance Unit supported the State group through the:
  - » establishment of a disaster management governance project and project management team
  - » preparation of disaster management group governance guidelines

- » coordination of district group profiles for the State group annual report
- » provision of disaster management advice to local groups regarding the local government amalgamations
- » development and implementation of disaster group annual report template and process
- » provision of high-level disaster management advice and assistance to the local, district and State groups.

### Disaster Risk Assessment

- » A project was established to review natural hazard impacts on Queensland and develop a state hazard profile. This project will be progressed during 2008-2009 and include non-natural hazard impacts. The project will also advise the State group on the development of a State Risk Register.
- » DES participated in State and National Climate Change forums and discussions aimed at integrating climate change adaptation and emergency management. Participation in the forums and discussions will progress during 2008-2009.
- » Geosciences Australia provided DES with an updated dataset outlining the risk of potential tsunami activity along the Queensland coastline. This data set illustrates potential tsunami wave heights at the edge of the continental shelf.
- » The SDCC and the State Operations Coordination Centre will be co-located in the new state-of-the-art Queensland Emergency Operations Centre. This will allow whole-of-Government support for response to and recovery from disaster and emergency. Once the detailed design phase is completed, the next phase will be to research and develop service delivery models for scalability and inter-operability between the two centres.
- » DES assisted the DPI&F during the EI event, with incident and emergency management mentors from the disaster management arrangements guiding, assisting and facilitating operational imperatives through a systems-based approach to emergency risk management.

## Disaster Mitigation

- » Supported disaster mitigation through the ongoing implementation of *State Planning Policy 1/03 Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*.
- » Screening of environmental impact statements for major projects forwarded to DES for consideration of the department's interests, including the consideration of natural hazards.
- » Advocated the consideration of natural hazards in legislative and administrative reviews of:
  - » Queensland's resort legislation
  - » the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*
  - » the Integrated Development Assessment System
  - » the SEQ Regional Plan.
- » Provided State Interest Checks for planning instruments forwarded under the protocols of the SEQ Regional Plan protocols, resulting in the consideration of natural hazards as a development constraint.
- » Advocated the consideration of natural hazards in leading the department's policy response to the development of the Far North Queensland Regional Plan and the associated Master Plan for the Mount Peter precinct, south of Cairns.
- » The Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee (QTCCC) conducted 11 workshops at coastal and inland regional centres across Queensland, occurring from mid October to early December 2007. The workshops were a cooperative partnership between the DES, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau), provided the latest information on cyclone, storm, flood, storm tide preparedness and warning and response issues. The workshops were an opportunity to build partnerships, encourage participation from a broad range of stakeholders, apply lessons learned and identify improvements for better preparing communities.
- » DES coordinated and conducted one of three CDWG workshops focussing on response agencies' levels of preparedness to cope with large scale, man made disasters. The Brisbane-based scenario comprised a building collapse in the inner city. The workshop was attended by 70 personnel from 25 agencies representing Queensland and interstate emergency responders.

- » DES conducted seven Introduction to Tsunami for Emergency Managers workshops to promote emergency preparedness initiatives for tsunami at the local and district levels. These workshops also assisted local governments to incorporate tsunami planning within the all-hazards framework. Approximately 200 personnel representing Queensland government agencies and emergency response personnel attended workshops throughout the series conducted at:
  - » Brisbane (Tuesday, 29 April 2008)
  - » Gold Coast (Thursday, 1 May 2008)
  - » Caloundra (Tuesday, 13 May 2008)
  - » Hervey Bay (Thursday, 15 May 2008)
  - » Yeppoon (Wednesday, 11 June 2008)
  - » Mackay (Friday, 13 June 2008)
  - » Cairns (Wednesday, 18 June 2008).



- » A State deployment plan and paging system is in place which enables QFRS staff to be contacted and available to be responded in two hours, in line with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Guidelines requirements for an international deployment.
- » QFRS has developed a quick response communications kit that can be deployed 24/7 to conduct a risk assessment in disaster areas. This capability will provide essential information on damage with the aid of geographical information services mapping back to the controlling disaster management group, enabling a quick response to community needs. Information provided includes damage information, identifying required equipment, entry and exit points for response vehicles and numbers of people without accommodation.
- » QFRS has qualified technical rescue personnel strategically positioned in all regions who can respond during a disaster to provide information

- and technical assistance in vertical, confined space, trench, swift water/floodwater, urban search and rescue (USAR), building collapse and support roles.
- » Staff are supported by a large array of specialised cache of equipment positioned at the Special Operations facility at Cannon Hill and the QFRS Townsville Fire Station. This equipment can be mobilised in a short time and pre positioned or responded soon after the event. This cache enables a team of 70 personnel to be fully self-sustained for 10 days.
  - » The cache has been enhanced to provide a capability to government to support not only a USAR team but any operational team including medical, police specialised branches and DPI&F. It can house up to 100 staff in a forward remote location with accommodation, lighting, power, showers, toilets, command setup and food. With its mobilising plan, QFRS can provide a quick response capability of 70 staff and specialised equipment to a disaster; fully self-sustained for 10 days either statewide, nationally or internationally.
  - » QFRS has some 235 trained Level Two personnel including 200 USAR personnel. This capability also includes USAR Category II, paramedics, doctor, engineer, canine, HazMat, communications and an Incident Management Team.
  - » Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has developed a statewide capability in support of regional areas. This consists of strategically located caches of mass casualty stores in all regional areas, supported by a central cache and major logistics at Tingalpa.
  - » QAS has also developed a task force capability that uses the Special Operations Response Team stationed at Tingalpa, supported by regional teams.
  - » The specialist capability extends to 25 paramedics trained to USAR Level Two, 66 paramedics trained in Level Three Personal Protective Equipment and 51 managers trained in Incident Management System.
  - » Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management (CHEM) Services, a unit of EMQ, led the development of the *HazMat Incident Recovery Plan* to improve the government's capacity to affect coordinated recovery from major chemical incidents. The unit contributed to the government's Accelerated Planning Initiative, which coordinates a number of projects aimed at reducing the risk of major chemical incidents in Queensland.
  - » CHEM Services directly regulates major hazard facilities (MHFs) under the *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001* by assessing the safety reports of these facilities and by conducting site audits. For these whole-of-Government audits, CHEM Services also coordinate the participation of other relevant agencies as appropriate, namely QFRS, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, EPA, Department of Mines and Energy (DME) and relevant local governments. There were eight MHFs audited during the year with emergency plans and procedures assessed at this time.
  - » Following completion in 2007 of the initial multi-agency inspection program of 130 large chemical storages immediately below MHF thresholds, CHEM Services commenced a program of in-depth auditing of approximately 60 of those facilities, which are considered most significant in terms of the potential consequences of a major fire or other HazMat incident. The audits focus on the safety management systems of the facilities to assess their comprehensiveness across a range of key components, including emergency planning and procedures. Target facilities include bulk flammable liquid storages, chemical warehouses and other bulk chemical storages located in Brisbane and in seven regional centres. Commencing in March 2008, this in-depth audit program will continue into 2009.

## Disaster Preparedness

### SDCC Training

- » To provide a surge capability during protracted operations, EMQ Disaster Operations has been conducting regular training sessions for EMQ and other DES staff who are interested in assisting the SDCC during operational periods. A number of planned training sessions were cancelled due to the high operational activity over summer. These sessions alternate between delivering theoretical training and exercises and allowing participants to reinforce their learning in a hands-on environment. During the 2007-2008 year more than 100 personnel attended the training sessions.
- » From July 2008 the SDCC will begin a 24/7 watch desk operation. Following employment of staff, in June 2008 a two-week induction course was held for the six recently appointed Watch Desk Officers and other regional EMQ staff, covering all aspects of the Queensland disaster management arrangements, emergency risk management and SDCC standard operating procedures. Participants were also required to take an active role in a number of simulation exercises based on actual events.



### Workshop Contribution

- » Disaster Operations staff were involved in the following activities:
  - » Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference (Brisbane, 3-4 July 2007)
  - » National Cyclones Workshop (Mount Macedon, 28-30 August 2007)
  - » Nuclear Powered Warship Seminar (Mount Macedon, 28-30 August 2007)
  - » QTCCC Workshop (Caloundra, 18 October 2007 and Mackay, 15 November 2007)
  - » Psychosocial Response and Recovery Symposium (Brisbane, 2 November 2007)
  - » Geosciences Australia – National Exposure Information System (Brisbane, 23 January 2008)
  - » Developing Biosecurity Strategy for Queensland (Brisbane, 4 April 2008 and 9 May 2008)
  - » National Adaption Research Plan for Emergency Services (Brisbane, 11 April 2008)
  - » Natural Disaster Summit (Townsville, 22 April 2008)
  - » Emergency Media and Public Affairs Conference (Surfers Paradise, 26-27 June 2008).

### Exercise Ocean Storm

- » *Exercise Ocean Storm* was a three-day real time exercise conducted from 24-26 July 2007. The exercise was designed around a hypothetical, realistic and potential scenario of a cyclone affecting the Queensland south east region. Local and district groups actively participated and were able to review the effectiveness of policies and procedures at local and district level for preparation, evacuation, damage assessment and recovery phases during an event.
- » Further exercises planned for Warwick, Cairns and Brisbane later in the year were cancelled due to the resource requirements of the EI outbreak.

### Exercise Central Havoc

- » *Exercise Central Havoc* was a two-day exercise conducted on 4-5 December 2007 at Gladstone which utilised the QAS mass casualty Emergo Train System. The exercise focused on testing multi-agency response and evacuation procedures at a tactical and operational level, to an incident resulting in mass casualties.

### Disaster Response

- » Under EMA leadership, DES has been working with counterparts in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to explore compatible arrangements for rapid impact assessment following a large-scale disaster in order that response and recovery activities can be better targeted. A workshop is planned for November 2008 involving the states and a number of Australian Government agencies.
- » EMQ, QAS and QFRS provided extensive support to disaster situations including response to:
  - » Beaudesert Floods (December 2007)
  - » Guru Floods (February 2008)
  - » Charleville Floods (March 2008)
  - » Emerald Floods (March 2008)
  - » Mackay Floods (March 2008)
  - » Rockhampton Floods (March 2008)
  - » localised rural fire brigade support in response to flooding at the Sunshine Coast and Charleville in early 2008.
- » QFRS operational service delivery to these incidents included:
  - » general emergency assistance to the community through local staff
  - » Special Operations (swift water rescue)
  - » State Incident Management Team (incident management)
  - » Special Operations (USAR damage assessment teams)
  - » Air Operations (air base management operations in coordinating fodder drops).
- » In all cases staff was deployed from around the state into the affected areas.



### Telephone 132 500

- » To further enhance emergency service responsiveness, a national 132 500 contact telephone number for the SES has been introduced to Queensland as the primary point of contact for flood and storm emergencies. This telephone number provides a coordinated and prioritised response by the SES to the community and has proven invaluable in supporting Queenslanders impacted by natural disasters.
- » During the reporting period of 2007-2008, a total of 26,364 calls had been made to the 132 500 telephone number.

### State Disaster Coordination Centre Activations

#### Recovery of Rescue Helicopter – July 2007

- » On 22 July 2007 the EMQ Cairns-based helicopter incurred an over-torque during a descent to a remote location west of Cooktown. Due to the inaccessible location and lack of commercial resources, the SDCC made a formal request for Commonwealth Assistance. The aircraft was subsequently winched from the location by an Army Chinook heavy lift helicopter and safely returned to Cairns for maintenance.

#### East Coast Low – August 2007

- » From 22-28 August 2007 a complex low pressure system located over the south east Coral Sea produced damaging winds, heavy rain and major flooding across SEQ. This resulted in widespread damage to roads and infrastructure impacting communities from the New South Wales border up to the north coast area. Exposed beaches sustained severe erosion from the large swells. Due to the significant damage to public assets, primary production areas and cases of personal hardship, the State/Australian Government National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) were activated.



### Grounding of the 'Kri Arung Samudra' – August 2007

- » The Indonesian Navy Training Ship, 'Kri Arung Samudra' ran aground on Rainbow Beach, about 175 kilometres north of Brisbane on 23 August 2007. The 18 naval officers onboard sustained no injuries although the vessel suffered major damage to its keel and rudder. The SDCC maintained a watching brief and liaised with Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to request State assistance. The Royal Australian Navy assisted in refloating the vessel and no diesel oil leaked from the 2,000 litres that was carried in drums onboard. The vessel was subsequently towed to Brisbane for repairs.

### Equine Influenza – August 2007

- » An outbreak of EI in New South Wales was confirmed on 24 August 2007. The disease was detected the following day in Queensland at a horse trial event at the Morgan Park Equestrian Centre near Warwick. Approximately 250 horses and 200 people were quarantined at the facility until 2 October 2007. Numerous other locations across Queensland were confirmed as infected over the following days and weeks.
- » The SDCC activated to assist the DPI&F with the containment and eradication of the highly contagious disease. An Operation Response and Recovery Management Group was quickly established at the DPI&F headquarters and remained in place until 2 November 2007.

### Severe Storms – October 2007

- » Severe storms impacted communities in central and southern Queensland from 7-12 October 2007. Several dwellings were damaged by strong winds and fallen trees. The DoC identified some of the householders as suffering personal hardship and requiring emergency accommodation and liaised with the SDCC to process activation of State Disaster Relief Assistance.
- » A further series of severe thunderstorms swept across central and SEQ from 28-30 October 2007. Numerous houses and businesses were damaged by strong winds, debris and heavy rain. Properties in Emerald suffered extensive damage from a localised super cell which was described by residents as a mini-tornado. Due to the significant damage to public assets, businesses, primary production areas and cases of personal hardship, the SDCC activated the NDRRA.

**Tropical Cyclone Guba – November 2007**

- » Tropical Cyclone (TC) Guba formed near Papua New Guinea on 16 November 2007 and quickly intensified to a Category Three as it moved erratically towards Cape York. As a severe cyclone, there were concerns of a potential storm tide and strong winds affecting Cape York communities. Fortunately, by 19 November 2007, TC Guba weakened to a Category One and headed directly for the tip of Cape York, passing just north of Thursday Island on 21 November 2007. No significant damage occurred, however, a resupply of essential foods was required to the community of Aurukun due to the excessively wet conditions.

**Grounding of the ‘Endeavour River’ – December 2007**

- » The bulk bauxite vessel ‘Endeavour River’ grounded just north of South Trees wharf in the Port of Gladstone on 2 December 2007. Although this was a coal-burning vessel, a small quantity of oil was carried for emergency use. After several attempts the vessel was successfully refloated on 7 December 2007 without causing any pollution. The SDCC maintained a watching brief for the incident with representation on the Queensland National Plan State Committee (Oil Spill).

**Grounding of the ‘Grain Harvester’ – December 2007**

- » The bulk carrier ‘Grain Harvester’ grounded near the Gatcombe Channel, in the Port of Gladstone on 18 December 2007. The vessel was loaded with coal and posed a significant pollution risk due to the 1,540 tonnes of heavy fuel oil onboard. Early reports indicated a possible breach to the ship’s hull but further detailed inspections showed the hull’s integrity remained intact. MSQ deployed a pollution response team from Brisbane and the vessel was refloated without incident the next day, with minimal disruption to port shipping movements.

**Severe Storms – December 2007**

- » Severe storm activity from 22-30 December 2007 caused flooding in central west Queensland. Due to significant damage, the State/Australian Government NDRRA were activated.

**Tropical Low – December 2007**

- » In late December 2007 a tropical low developed in the Coral Sea north east of Gladstone and moved slowly towards the Queensland coastline. Due to the abnormally high seas and strong winds, plans were readied for the evacuation of over 3,000 registered campers on Fraser Island. Over 130 guests self-evacuated from Heron Island. Widespread beach erosion and localised flooding resulted in many areas between Noosa and Coolangatta. The SDCC worked closely with affected regions to develop contingency plans for evacuation points, identifying possible vessels and liaising with harbour masters for reception planning.

**SEQ Flooding – January 2008**

- » An off-shore low pressure system resulted in heavy rain over much of SEQ in early January 2008. Beaudesert and Logan were particularly impacted. Due to numerous road closures and damage to five bridges, properties became isolated for several days.

**Tropical Cyclone Helen – January 2008**

- » TC Helen developed over waters south east of Darwin on 4 January 2008 and quickly intensified to a Category Two, however, on the following day it weakened to a tropical low as it crossed the Northern Territory coast, south of Darwin. It then tracked eastwards and entered the Gulf of Carpentaria but did not re-intensify to cyclone intensity. Communities in the south east of the Gulf experienced elevated sea levels, typically exceeding the Highest Astronomical Tide by 0.75 metre. TC Helen finally crossed the Queensland coast near Burketown on 7 January 2008 as it maintained an easterly direction.
- » By 14 January 2008 TC Helen reached the Coral Sea near Cardwell and began to re-intensify as it tracked south before crossing the coast near Townsville the following day. Heavy rainfall occurred in the Townsville, Giru, Charters Towers and Rockhampton areas as it continued to move towards Longreach in central Queensland as an intense low pressure system. The SDCC maintained a watching brief, liaising with coastal engineers from the EPA to assess evacuation threats.



### Central and South West Queensland Flooding – January 2008

- » Ex-TC Helen continued to produce extremely heavy rainfall in the river basins around Emerald and Charleville. Strong winds were also experienced at Charleville airport on 17 January 2008 where a reading of 107 kilometres per hour was recorded. Heavy rainfall occurred in the Warrego area from 16-19 January 2008, resulting in very high levels in the Warrego River and associated creeks. Up to 1,000 sheep perished in the floods. The system continued to move south and crossed the border into New South Wales on 19 January 2008.



Charleville Flood Barrier

- » As Charleville's permanent levee system was still under construction, 500 metres of a temporary flood barrier system was loaned by New South Wales SES and airlifted to Charleville by two Royal Australia Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft late on the evening of 18 January 2008. Four flood barrier experts were flown from New Zealand to assist the local crew who worked through the night to erect the barrier, plugging two gaps in the town's levee system. The task was completed by 4am. When the flood peaked later that day, the temporary barrier had prevented about 300 millimetres of water from entering the town. This major logistical event was completed in approximately 21 hours and was successful due to the strong cooperation and partnership that the SDCC has with many Australian, State and local government agencies.

- » Some sections of the Belyando River spread up to 17 kilometres wide and the Nogoa River at Emerald peaked at the second highest level on record, resulting in major flooding. Approximately 1,300 people self-evacuated and 380 houses were identified as flood affected.
- » It was estimated that over 30,000 head of cattle were displaced by floodwaters, whilst 3,000 to 4,000 perished. A massive fodder operation swung into operation to feed groups of stranded cattle in Emerald and Belyando area. Up to 17 helicopters, including two Army Blackhawks, were used daily for almost three weeks. Medium and large chartered helicopters delivered stock piles



of fodder to various locations, allowing smaller helicopters to distribute it to stranded cattle. Levels of aviation fuel became critical and a series of tankers and drums was used to maintain the operation. This was the largest and most complex fodder operation in the history of Queensland's disaster operations.

- » The Ensham and North Curragh mines suffered major infrastructure damages from flooding.

### Severe Storms – February 2008

- » Western and SEQ was impacted by severe thunderstorms from 3-8 February 2008, which caused flash flooding across the southern part of the state from the Northern Territory border to the Gold Coast. The SDCC maintained a watching brief and supported local and district groups with recovery operations.



**North Queensland Flooding – February 2008**

- » An active monsoon trough once more impacted northern areas of Queensland in February 2008. Mackay received 625 millimetres of rain in six hours, which produced considerable flash flooding, particularly in the Glenella area. The SDCC commissioned the QFRS and SES to conduct damage assessment, inspecting almost 9,000 properties for possible flood damage. Some properties were extensively affected with signs of structural damage, with about 4,000 identified with flood inundation.
- » Floodwaters threatened Giru and Rockhampton for the second time but generally only caused disruption due to flooded roads and some isolated properties.

**Space Debris – February 2008**

- » EMA activated the Australian Contingency Plan for Space Re-entry Debris due to an inoperable satellite that was in a decaying orbit and expected to re-enter Earth’s atmosphere in March 2008. Due to fears that large components of the satellite might survive re-entry above northern Australia, the United States Navy shot it down, causing the satellite to break up into smaller pieces. The SDCC monitored the situation according to the Plan.

**Summary of Resupply Operations**

- » Heavy rain over Cape York in early November 2007 made many roads in the area impassable, resulting in several communities becoming isolated. The community of Aurukun was particularly affected and a resupply operation was conducted to airlift nearly three tonnes of essential foods to the isolated community.

- » Widespread flooding over the south west, central and far north Queensland resulted in eight resupply operations being conducted. Over 23 tonnes of essential foods and medical supplies were airlifted to isolated communities.



Date	Destination	Cargo	Method	Kilograms
19 November 2007	Aurukun	Foodstuffs	Fixed wing	2,900
17 January 2008	Two properties near Aramac	Medical supplies	Helicopter	1
18 January 2008	Two properties near Charleville	Food and medical supplies	Helicopter	30
23 January 2008	Quilpie	Food	Helicopter	6,000
23 January 2008	Thargomindah	Food	Helicopter	12,370
14 February 2008	Coen	Food	Aeroplane	780
21 February 2008	Coen	Food	Aeroplane	700
29 February 2008	Coen	Food	Aeroplane	3,443
6 March 2008	Palmer River (northwest of Cairns)	Food	Helicopter	80
			Total:	26,304

#### Avian Influenza – ongoing

- » The SDCC has been receiving situation reports from the Australian Government’s Department of Health and Aging on the status of Avian Influenza since 29 July 2004. SDCC staff participated in the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce to help develop a framework to progress the State’s Mass Fatality Management Plans. The SDCC continues to maintain a watching brief.

#### Bureau of Meteorology

- » EMQ, through Disaster Operations, has a very close relationship with the Bureau, as Queensland has a high frequency of severe natural phenomena effecting communities throughout the State. The SDCC has access to 20 weather radar sites around the State.
- » During the reporting period, 1,721 weather warnings were received from the Bureau, which required monitoring and notification to affected districts by the SDCC or the State group Duty Officer.
- » An additional 2,042 reports were received from the Bureau which required no or minimal action, as they were routine reports such as Coastal Waters Wind Warning, Tropical Cyclone Outlook, Tropical Cyclone Information Bulletin and Flood Summary.

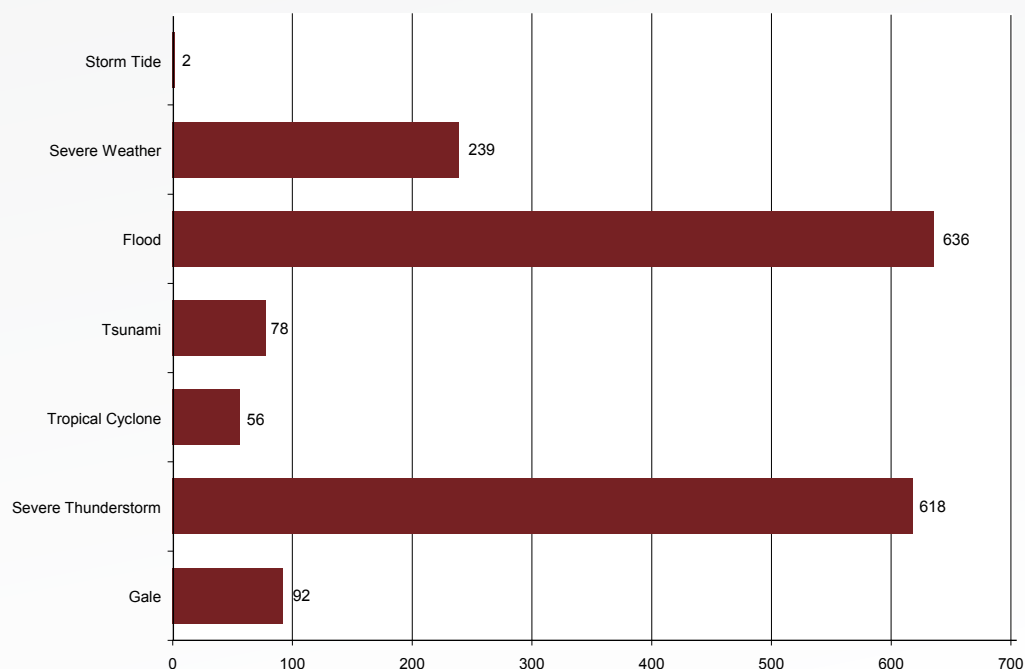
#### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » Local Emerald and Barcardine Rural Operations staff provided support to the community during the recovery phase of the Emerald floods in early 2008.
- » QFRS has developed the capacity to support a recovery with its self sustainability equipment in the form of accommodation, toilets, showers, power, lighting, food and command structure for up to 100 persons.

#### Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

- » In Queensland, the NDRRA are administered by DES through EMQ, with funding sourced through Queensland Treasury and the Australian Government.
- » The State/Australian Government NDRRA are the prime mechanism utilised by the Queensland Government to provide post-disaster relief and recovery assistance to communities affected by any one or a combination of the following natural disasters: cyclone, storm, flood, bushfire, earthquake, storm surge, tsunami, tornado, meteorite strike and landslide (contingent upon another event occurring).

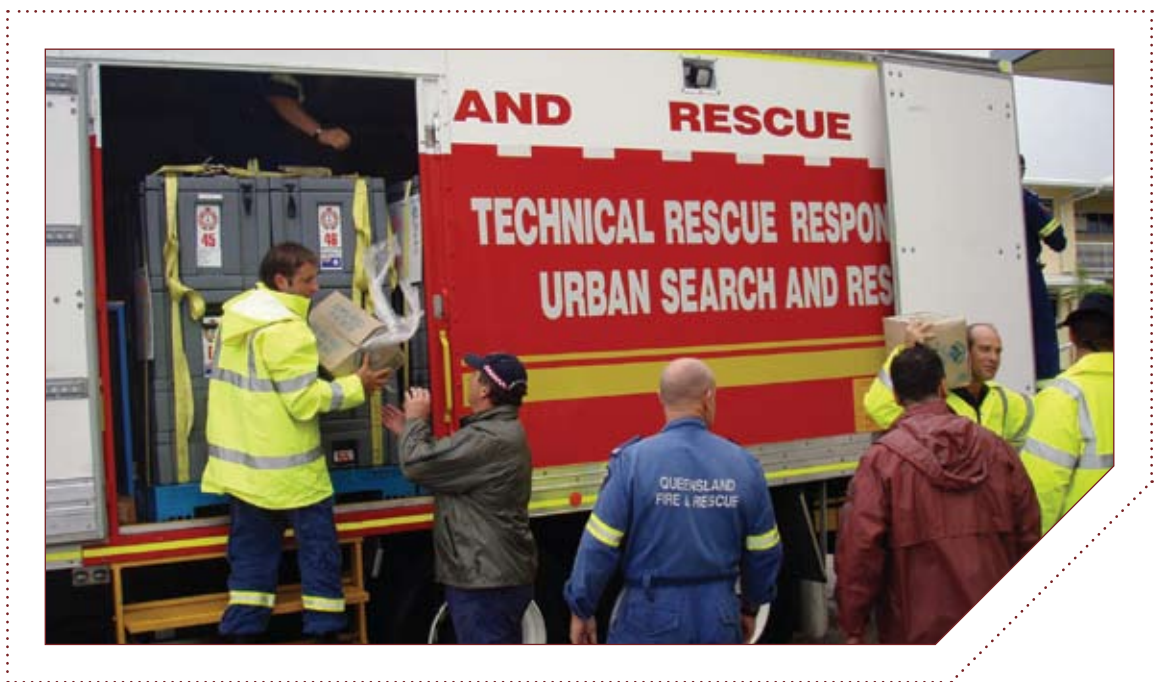
Breakdown of weather warnings for 2007-2008 period



- » The NDRRA provides for relief and recovery assistance in the areas of:
  - » emergency contents replacement and building repair grants to affected eligible persons
  - » concessional home rebuilding loans to affected eligible persons
  - » concessional re establishment loans to eligible small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations
  - » private debris clearing and eligible extraordinary disaster management costs incurred
  - » State and local government essential infrastructure restoration.
- » The activation threshold for 2007-2008 was \$240,000. Local government triggers ranged from \$169,000 to \$1.69 million with a \$50,000 concessional trigger remaining in place for some eligible councils.
- » The disaster period for the completion of restoration works is two financial years after the end of the financial year in which the event occurred.
- » The NDRRA provides for a State/Australian Government cost-sharing formula. Under this formula for the 2007-2008 year, Queensland was required to meet initial NDRRA expenditure amount of \$67.7 million. The next \$50.8 million was shared equally - 50 per cent State and 50 per cent Australian Government. Expenditure in excess of \$118.5 million was shared 25 per cent State and 75 per cent Australian Government.
- » At the time of publication of this report, the 2007-2008 NDRRA financial statements are being prepared with finalisation including certification by the Auditor-General of Queensland due by 31 December 2008.

**New NDRRA activations for 2007-2008**

- » south west Queensland flooding (June 2008)
- » south east Queensland storms (29 May-2 June 2008)
- » Queensland monsoonal flooding (February-March 2008)
- » south east and western Queensland storms and flooding (3-8 February 2008)
- » south east Queensland east coast low flooding (27 December 2007-7 January 2008)
- » Queensland monsoonal flooding (January 2008)
- » central western Queensland storms and flooding (22-30 December 2007)
- » south west Queensland storms and flooding (23-30 November 2007)
- » central and southern Queensland severe storms (28-30 October 2007)
- » south east and north coast Queensland east coast low (August 2007)



### **NDRRA activations closing during 2007-2008**

- » TCs Larry and Monica and flooding (March-April 2006)
- » Bowen Shire and Burdekin Shire flooding (26-29 January 2006)
- » far north Queensland storms and flooding (9-29 January 2006)
- » central and southern Queensland severe storms (26 November-2 December 2005)
- » Isis Shire and Biggenden Shire bushfire (10 October 2005)

### **Post-Disaster Assessment**

- » Following an operation, QFRS assesses its role and the lessons to be learnt to rectify any issues that have arisen within budget requirements. This occurs after the debriefing process and in consultation with responded parties and associated personnel. A system is in place to ensure lessons learned are acted upon and to ensure ongoing improvement.
- » In 2006 the MCPDEM agreed to establish a national rapid damage assessment capability and tasked the AEMC to develop options for that capability. At the August 2007 meeting, the AEMC considered a paper prepared by the DES which suggested there are four elements to a national rapid damage assessment capability:
  - » command and control (assessment data should be provided within a national incident management system)
  - » surveillance and communications (use should be made of high technology systems such as satellite imaging, airborne systems, electronic tablets and 3D modelling)
  - » templates and protocols (standardised templates and protocols for collection and analysis of the data should be employed)
  - » professionally trained field teams (with skills in such functional areas as human needs, critical infrastructure, environmental and economic assessments).
- » Queensland, in conjunction with other jurisdictions, agreed to undertake further research on the concepts and identify skills needed for field based teams and provided the AEMC with a detailed assessment template used by Defence in Civil-Military Cooperation tasks, including humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

### **Future Priorities**

- » To explore the policy implications of climate change on natural disasters and the role of planning-based mitigation measures to minimise their impact through forums such as the SEQ Regional Plan Climate Change Strategy Project and the COAG Working Group on Climate Change and Water.
- » QFRS will continue to assess its capability with the possibility of further training of staff in other roles on completion of a risk assessment and our requirements under the legislation. This may include (but not be limited to) marine, petro-chemical incidents and pandemic influenza.
- » QFRS Special Operations will continue to research and develop USAR Damage Assessment Team capability.
- » QAS will continue to build regional capacity through further training of supervisors and managers in Command and Control skills.
- » QAS will further support the raising and training of Regional Special Response Teams.

### **Developing Disaster Management Operations**

- » EMQ will build operational excellence by clearly stating roles and responsibilities (day-to-day business and operations) within the central office, regions and other staff within the Queensland disaster management arrangements framework and articulate to all stakeholders the roles and responsibilities of Disaster Operations.

### **Develop a State Risk Profile**

- » The EMQ Disaster Management Branch will build a hazard profile for every local government area, reviewing Local Plans (post amalgamation) and District Plans, to compile a comprehensive State risk profile for Queensland.

### **Document the requirements and competencies of Local and District Groups**

- » Develop templates and guidelines for Local Plans, including operational plans for District Groups and the identification of residual risk to districts in consultation with QPS, government agencies and NGOs.



## Queensland Police Service

### Disaster Research

- » The QPS supports and contributes to disaster research activities relevant to its areas of responsibility.

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » The QPS continues to contribute to the strategic focus of the Queensland disaster management arrangements through participation of its Commissioner in the State group. During 2007-2008 the QPS was also represented on the State Disaster Management Review Steering Committee by Commissioner Atkinson. Additionally, a senior member of the QPS sits as a member of the SDCG.
- » During the 2007-2008 period the QPS created an additional position, at the rank of Inspector with a key focus on disaster management policy, to support the Superintendent, Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch. This officer's responsibilities include the provision of strategic advice to the senior executive of the QPS, liaising with external agencies and organisations on behalf of the QPS and providing support to members of the QPS with respect to disaster management training, advice and information.

### Disaster Risk Assessment and Disaster Mitigation

- » These functions relate directly to the responsibilities of Police District Officers who are appointed as DDCs and is a component of the local and district disaster management planning process.

### Disaster Preparedness

- » Officers from Metropolitan North Police region led the development of the Brisbane Central Business District Emergency Plan in close collaboration with a number of other State Government agencies, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Rail (QR) and St Johns Ambulance. This Plan provides a comprehensive framework for coordinated responses to significant events that may impact on the safety of the community.
- » The QPS contributed to the State's preparedness in terms of pandemic influenza through its membership on the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce.
- » This function also relates directly to the responsibilities of Police District Officers who

are appointed as DDCs. These officers were instrumental in the delivery of district level disaster management exercises throughout 2007-2008. Of note, all five district groups in the Southern Police Region were activated and simultaneously tested using a pandemic-based scenario, during a single coordinated exercise (Exercise Medusa) in June 2007.

- » Members of the QPS attended a range of disaster management courses at the EMA training facility at Mount Macedon in Victoria. The QPS has also identified a need for, and is now in the process of developing (in conjunction with EMQ) specific training for its members with disaster management responsibilities.

### Disaster Response and Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » These functions relate directly to the responsibilities of Police District Officers who are appointed as DDCs. These officers successfully coordinated at a disaster district level the response to, and the provision of disaster relief and recovery following a number of disaster scale flood events during 2007-2008 in south-east and central Queensland. During these flood events the QPS also provided high levels of community support in terms of road safety, evacuation assistance, communications, property security and the investigation of event related criminal offences. Officers from non-affected regions and specialist units provided support to local police in these activities and provided relief to local police involved in coordination centres at local and district levels.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » The QPS contributes to post-disaster assessment through its DDCs, who host post event debriefs to identify learnings from all aspects of an event; and through membership on the State group and the SDCG, which enables the identification and implementation of relevant policies and initiatives resulting from the learnings from disaster events.

### Future Priorities

- » The QPS is committed to providing continued high level support to the community, government agencies and private organisations prior to, during and following disaster events in Queensland.
- » To support its capacity to deliver core business services, the QPS is also focussing on enhancing its internal preparedness for and resilience to disaster events.

# Queensland Transport

## Disaster Research

- » The Queensland Transport (Transport) partner agencies: Queensland Transport, including MSQ, the Department of Main Roads (DMR) and QR conduct research into transport infrastructure, resilience methods, and disaster planning and response best practice and experiences to provide a disaster management perspective to business practices.

## Disaster Policy and Governance

- » Transport is represented on the State group, SDCG, SDMC and district groups. The Transport agencies are also represented on local groups as requested. Transport contributed to the drafting of the State Plan and redrafted the Transport Disaster Management Plan.

## Disaster Mitigation

- » The Transport partner agencies contribute to the disaster mitigation work of inter-agency disaster mitigation committees, such as those related to tsunami and evacuation planning, and the SDMC. The Transport partners provided input to the Guideline titled *Mitigating the adverse impacts of cyclones: Evacuation and shelters*.
- » Disaster mitigation activities are also undertaken across the business practices of the transport agencies in relation to transport infrastructure hardening to reduce the susceptibility of road, rail, air and maritime infrastructure to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

## Disaster Preparedness

- » The Transport partner agencies conducted annual internal disaster management planning, training and exercises across the state to confirm and test disaster management arrangements and capabilities.
- » The Transport Disaster Management Plan was redrafted to reflect current disaster management arrangements; internal operational arrangements were revised and updated and reference documents were prepared for all disaster management stakeholders across the transport agencies.
- » Reviews of hazard specific plans and drafting of additional internal guidelines were conducted as necessary and an annual Transport Disaster Management Committee meeting was conducted in September 2007.

- » Internal training for all regional and district transport Disaster Management Liaison Officers was conducted in October–December 2007 and agency-specific emergency awareness sessions were conducted throughout the year.
- » Representatives from the Transport agencies participated in multi-agency briefing and training sessions and contributed to exercises as required.
- » Transport represents the transport agencies on inter-agency disaster preparedness committees such as the SDCG and contributes to the preparedness work for emergency animal disease responses and pandemic influenza arrangements. The Transport agencies address internal preparedness arrangements for a pandemic human influenza outbreak through the business continuity planning process.
- » Maritime pollution prevention and response arrangements were enhanced through the completion of audits of first-strike response capacity; a targeted public awareness campaign and the storage and maintenance of specialised pollution response equipment in all Queensland ports.

## Disaster Response

- » The transport and transport engineering disaster management functions of the Transport agencies were activated on a large scale twice over this reporting year to support the response to major hazards in Queensland: the EI outbreak in Queensland in August 2007 and the monsoonal flooding in January–February 2008.
- » Between August 2007 and February 2008 the Transport agencies undertook transport and transport engineering activities to support the multi-agency EI containment operation led by the DPI&F. Transport and the DMR fulfilled a range of transport and transport engineering tasks, including:
  - » providing the services of Transport Inspectors to patrol for illegal horse movements
  - » advising on the manufacture and carrying out the installation of temporary and permanent signage about equine movement restrictions
  - » providing information about horse float ownership
  - » transporting resources.

- » In January and February 2008 the Transport agencies provided support to EMQ, the SDCC and several activated district groups in disaster response operations conducted as a result of the monsoonal floods across southern, central and north Queensland. As part of the multi-agency local, district and State level responses to the flooding and severe weather, the Transport agencies undertook a range of transport and transport engineering activities, which included:
  - » arranging road and rail transport to move emergency supplies
  - » passengers and resources, including food
  - » sandbags, livestock feed and equipment for emergency responders
  - » the provision of standby passenger and freight trains to transit personnel and resources into and out of affected areas, in particular during the flooding around Emerald
  - » arranging helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to resupply communities isolated by flood waters
  - » deployment of the services of Transport Inspectors to protect the road infrastructure assets of DMR
  - » provision of expert advice and regular status updates about the impact of the floods and severe weather on road, rail, air and maritime infrastructure access, closures, condition and repairs
  - » provision of transport and transport engineering advice for community evacuations contingency planning.
- » MSQ continued to participate in the management and operation of *Australia's National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Pollution and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances*.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » Through its portfolio, the Transport agencies support State Government agencies in disaster relief and recovery through the provision of transport and transport engineering activities and information. To assist with EI industry recovery, Transport arranged registration payment relief provisions for horse transport companies.
- » Following the 2007-2008 monsoonal floods, the Transport agencies conducted damage assessments and repairs on road, rail and maritime infrastructure to enable services to be reinstated. They provided ongoing advice about these activities to relevant stakeholders. QR rebuilt rail lines in central and southern parts of the state, including rail bridges. The DMR worked with local government to restore access to local and state owned roads and provided advice on road

mass limits and access restrictions. Extensive tracts of road, including road bridges that were washed away, were reconstructed, particularly in the central region of the state. Road use permits were arranged for emergency services vehicles and other critical services.

- » MSQ monitored usage of the Fairbairn Dam during its flooding and conducted a hydrographical survey of the Airlie Beach Marine Operations area to check for vessels which may have sunk during the severe weather.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » Transport and the Transport agencies have undertaken operational debriefs and reviews, both internally and in collaboration with the whole-of-Government debrief. These aim to ensure learnings from the EI containment experience and response and recovery operations following the January February 2008 monsoonal weather are incorporated into policy and reflected in functional disaster management responsibilities and capabilities.

### Future Priorities

- » For the coming year the focus will be expansion of disaster preparedness, both through disaster planning, training and exercising and participation in multi-agency disaster management mitigation and planning arrangements..

# Department of Public Works

## Disaster Research

- » During 2007–2008 the DPW, in association with the James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station, finalised the construction of a test rig and commenced testing of a range of generic building materials (doors, door hardware, debris screens and metal cladding) and construction systems. The collected data will be analysed and used as important reference material in the design and construction of public cyclone shelters.

## Disaster Policy and Governance

- » The Department of Public Works Disaster Preparedness Group (DP Group) provides the overall direction and coordination of the department's functional support roles in disaster management. The DP Group provides representation on a range of cross-departmental committees which support the Queensland disaster management arrangements. The DP Group ensures that the department maintains an operational state of preparedness to provide functional support to natural disasters, technological failures, animal/plant disease, pandemic influenza or terrorism.
- » The DP Group represents the DPW on a range of inter-agency disaster preparedness committees including the SDCG, SDMC, QTCCC and the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce.
- » The DP Group has provided specific comment on matters relating to the State Plan, development of recovery policy and management, biosecurity strategy, tsunami awareness and risk reduction and public alerting.
- » Qbuild, the department's maintenance and construction arm, represents the department's interest at the disaster district level and maintains plans and a prepared workforce.

## Disaster Risk Assessment

- » A new planning guideline was developed under the DM Act and was formally endorsed by the State group in March 2008. Titled *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter*, the guideline defines the step-by-step process local governments can use to reduce community vulnerability to cyclones and inform emergency operations and disaster mitigation

planning. by following the guidelines, local governments will be able to examine potential storm tide inundation, identify structures which comply with cyclone shelter design and construction standards and put strategies into place to ensure that the community can evacuate and shelter safely.

- » The guideline resulted from the collaborative efforts of a special working group established by the QTCCC with representation from local, State and Australian governments. The working group was chaired and funded by the DPW.
- » The DP Group also contributed expertise to the multi-agency committee formulating risk assessment, public awareness and mitigation strategies toward tsunami hazard.

## Disaster Preparedness

- » The DP Group has coordinated the development and delivery of training for more than 90 departmental personnel. The training covered a number of strategic areas of the department's functional support roles as well as exercises to test operational preparedness.
- » Approximately 6,389 contact hours were devoted by departmental staff in the delivery of the department's disaster management role including responses to disaster events, maintenance of disaster management plans, attendance at disaster management related meetings and training.
- » Qbuild provides representation on all of the 23 district groups.
- » The DPW participated in a number of cross-agency exercises, including a Catastrophic Disaster Discussion Workshop coordinated by the AEMC.
- » The DP Group also coordinates the department's business continuity planning and oversees Government Agency Preparedness and on-site emergency plans and activities.
- » The DP Group has invested heavily in updated information communications technology to provide a higher level of mobility, flexibility, redundancy and operational preparedness.
- » The DP Group has been developing a departmental intranet site for staff to quickly access emergency/disaster management and business continuity related material and provide a central and accessible repository for emergency related departmental plans and arrangements.



## Disaster Response

- » During 2007-2008, the DPW provided functional support to Queensland's response to ten natural disaster events including the monsoonal flooding which affected wide expanses of Queensland.
- » The department also provided functional support to the DPI&F and the DoC during the response to the EI outbreak. The department's response included the provision of:
  - » logistical support to a range of separate DPI&F and DoC operations at Warwick's Morgan Park equestrian complex
  - » long-term catering for horse owners and other personnel maintaining a presence at the Morgan Park complex
  - » vehicles and other logistical support for DPI&F, DoC and EMQ personnel involved in disease containment and community engagement activities throughout the affected regions in SEQ
  - » community engagement accommodation solutions for the DPI&F and the DoC.
- » The cost of operational work coordinated by DPW on behalf of the DPI&F and the DoC during the response to the outbreak of EI is \$338,698 (including GST).
- » The departmental response to the monsoonal flood event included:
  - » deployment of a liaison officer to support operations at the SDCC
  - » deployment of emergency response teams
  - » provision of vehicles and other logistical support of responding agencies
  - » establishment and logistical support to community evacuation centres established in Emerald and Mackay
  - » undertaking damage assessments to private housing on behalf of the DoC
  - » repair of damaged Queensland Government built infrastructure.
- » The cost of counter-disaster operational work coordinated by the DPW in support of the monsoonal flood events has been estimated at approximately \$550,000 (including GST).

## Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » The 2007-2008 monsoonal flood events which impacted across wide expanses of coastal and inland Queensland culminated in varying levels of damage to private, commercial, industrial and public infrastructure.
- » Damage to State Government built infrastructure was limited in most of the flood affected centres with the exception of Mackay. A number of Mackay-based schools and public housing properties were damaged as a result of the flash flood during the early hours of Friday, 15 February 2008. All Mackay District schools were closed the day of the actual flooding, due to access issues and flood water inundation damage of 13 schools. However, with the exception of two facilities, all were operational by the scheduled commencement of the new school week. The remaining schools were able to reopen at a reduced capacity later the same week.
- » Repairs have been completed to the majority of State Government assets and the following table indicates the preliminary costs of building restoration works performed on behalf of the impacted State Government agency out of each of the ten separate declared disaster events.
- » The DPW (Qbuild) has worked closely with the DoC in the coordination of inspections of flood damaged private residences, including caravans and boats. These inspections are an important element in the processing of Structural Assistance Grants provided under the NDRRA. The grant funding contributes to the cost of repairing uninsured, owner-occupied homes, caravans and vessels to a habitable and secure condition.

## Post-Disaster Assessment

- » The DPW has undertaken a separate review of its arrangements and procedures following both the functional support of the EI outbreak and the response to natural disasters, including the monsoonal flooding which impacted on Queensland during 2007-2008.
- » The review process incorporated an internal review seeking feedback from internal departmental business units and key representatives involved in providing the response, as well as inter-departmental reviews and debriefings orchestrated at disaster district and State levels. Outcomes from the review process have been identified and suitable adjustments are planned to be incorporated into future responses.

## Future Priorities

- » Planned projects to be progressed by the DPW during 2008-2009 include:
  - » a trial of the DPC 's Automated Notification System messaging system
  - » ongoing development of disaster response/ recovery arrangements including:
    - » rapid damage assessment teams
    - » logistical support teams
    - » disaster supply catalogue
    - » private residence damage assessments
    - » private residence electrical safety inspections.
  - » a review of the department's Disaster Management Functional Support Plan
  - » a capability assessment of new information communications technology resources for DP Group personnel
  - » the maintenance of plans and training of key personnel to maintain the level of agency preparedness.

Event	Agency cost			Preliminary Costs (GST Incl)
	Department of Education, Training and the Arts	Department of Housing	Other	
South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low	\$60,651.96	\$16,830.00	\$5,965.94	\$83,447.90
Central and Southern Queensland Severe Storms	\$401,051.39	\$50,118.50	\$182,973.59	\$634,143.48
South West Queensland Storms and Flooding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
South East Queensland East Coast Low	\$346,150.97	\$11,897.00	\$10,143.57	\$368,191.54
Central Western Queensland Storms and Flooding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Queensland Monsoonal Flooding	\$63,208.17	\$2,829.00	\$91,344.11	\$157,381.28
South East and Western Queensland Storms and Flooding	\$49,549.87	Nil	\$3,247.00	\$52,796.87
Queensland Monsoonal Flooding	\$866,484.03	\$224,253.00	\$220,009.00	\$1,310,746.03
South East Queensland Storms	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
South West Queensland Flooding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,787,096.39</b>	<b>\$305,927.50</b>	<b>\$513,683.21</b>	<b>\$2,606,707.10</b>

## Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » During 2007-2008 the DPI&F:
  - » continued to develop business continuity management in relation to human influenza pandemic outbreak
  - » developed the DPI&F Emergency Management All-Hazards 'Strategic' Policy Framework
  - » continued to develop the department's arrangements in relation to Smart Services Queensland's governance and activation arrangements for call centre services.

### Disaster Preparedness

- » As part of its whole-of-Government focus, the department maintained active membership on the following State level disaster groups and committees:
  - » State Disaster Management Group
  - » State Disaster Coordination Group
  - » State Disaster Mitigation Committee
  - » State Community Recovery Committee
  - » Chemical, Biological and Radiological Steering Committee
  - » Shared Services Queensland – Strategic Framework for Disaster Services
  - » Tsunami Community Warning Working Group
  - » Queensland Counter Terrorism Committee
  - » GAP Network

- » Interdepartmental Hazardous Substances Coordinating Committee
- » Represented the Queensland government on the Food Chain Assurance Advisory Group.
- » Preparedness – documents which ensure the department or community is prepared to deal with an emergency, including:
  - » Biosecurity Emergency Operations Manual
  - » Emergency Response Group Agreement
  - » The Role of Animal and Plant Biosecurity in Emergency Events – a Planning Tool for Local Government
  - » Corporate Capability Emergency Management All-Hazards "Operational" Framework
  - » DPI&F Information Security Plan
  - » Key Asset Security Plans.

### Disaster Response

#### Equine Influenza – the story for the department

- » Early on Saturday 25 August 2007 the DPI&F was notified that horses suspected of having a highly virulent exotic disease called EI had been detected in an equestrian centre in Sydney.
- » By that afternoon, DPI&F announced a statewide standstill, meaning no horses could move from where they were until further notice.
- » The department activated its emergency response capability and established its State Disease Control Centre on the ground floor of the Primary Industries Building in Brisbane City.



- » An EI Control Group was also formed. This group represents the horse industry groups and key government departments who worked collectively as a problem solving and decision making group to the response.
- » The response required a total of 1138 personnel working vigilantly for eight months to contain and eradicate the disease from Queensland.
- » Approximately three weeks into the EI response in Queensland, horse owners were introduced to a series of movement zones – red, green and orange.
- » The department received approximately 30,000 applications for permits to move animals. Of those, 27,500 were issued. This resource intensive process assessed in excess of 135 applications per day.
- » At its peak, Queensland had over 3,800 known infected properties and nearly 70,000 horses had been vaccinated. There have been no reported cases of EI in Queensland since 25 December 2007.
- » The outbreak of EI had a profound financial affect on the equine sector which is worth \$6.2 billion per year to Australia and with volunteer support, is worth \$8 billion per year. The response to EI heavily impacted on social and recreational activities and the many businesses that support the equine industries.
- » The key learning from the response has been the need to engage with all relevant organisations in open and frank discussions, particularly in relation to striking a balance between minimising the negative impacts of the response and achieving the ultimate goal of eradication. Queensland horse owners responded diligently to the standstill and this high level of compliance was a key factor in containing the spread of the disease.
- » Additional emergency responses by the department include:
  - » Fire Ant eradication throughout Queensland
  - » Yellow Crazy Ants in south eastern and northern Queensland (ongoing)
  - » central and northern Queensland floods
  - » Asian Green Mussels in the northern region (ongoing)
  - » Asian Honey Bee in northern Queensland
  - » Citrus Canker
  - » Sugar Cane Smut
- » DPI&F continued to develop response plans and manuals including:
  - » Biosecurity Emergency Operations Manual
  - » Biosecurity Queensland Control Centre Emergency Management Unit
  - » Corporate Capability 'Operational' Plan
  - » Onsite Emergency Response Plans
  - » Queensland Food Incident Response Plan
  - » National Food Incident Response Plan.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » The department continued to prepare comprehensive plans which focus on the recovery or restoration of the department, industry and community affected by the emergency disease outbreak including developing:
  - » DPI&F Business Continuity Management Plan
  - » DPI&F Pandemic Influenza Plan
  - » DPI&F IT Disaster Recovery Plan
  - » Key Asset Business Continuity Plans.

### Future Priorities

- » Undertake an after action review of the EI Outbreak.
- » Work with whole-of-Government disaster management representatives on Industry Engagement Strategy especially learnings from EI Outbreak.
- » Work with whole-of-Government disaster management representatives to more effectively link National Response Plans such as the Australian Emergency Veterinary Plan to the operational response, enabling more effective work.
- » Continue to develop and implement departmental emergency management strategies contained in the *Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2008-2010*.
- » Continue to establish business continuity management capability across the department.



## Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » During 2007-2008, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation administered two funding programs providing financial assistance to disaster-affected areas of Queensland – the NDRRA in conjunction with the Australian Government on behalf of local government and the Queensland Sport and Recreation Flood Recovery Program.
- » The NDRRA program provides financial support for local governments to restore public assets damaged by natural disaster events. During 2007-2008 the department assisted councils with applications and provided relief funding of more than \$98 million. The majority of funding for 2007-2008 (\$86.9 million) from the NDRRA went to northern and western Queensland local governments from the continued program from TCs Larry and Monica during March-April 2006 and also TC Nelson during January-February 2007.
- » Other natural disaster events included flooding resulting from monsoonal rain throughout Queensland during January, February and March 2008; the SEQ storms and flooding experienced in December 2007 and January 2008 and storms and flooding in central and western Queensland during November and December 2007.
- » In recognising the damage and impact caused by floods on sport and recreation organisations across Queensland, the Queensland Sport and Recreation Flood Recovery Program was released in February 2008.
- » This program was developed to assist in re-establishing sport and recreation within areas activated under the State/Australian Government NDRRA as at 21 February 2008. Assistance of up to \$5,000 was available to eligible organisations to cover the loss of sport and recreation equipment, small capital equipment or minor repairs that were required as a direct result of flood waters entering a sporting facility.
- » This program acknowledged the financial burden on sport and recreation services to recover from the impact of the floods and enable ongoing participation in sport and recreation activities in their local communities. During 2007-2008 \$1.5 million was allocated to this program.
- » The total contribution allocated by the department in 2007-2008 towards all forms of NDRRA exceeded \$101.6 million.

## Department of Communities

### Disaster Research

- » The DoC contracted James Cook University to develop a *Pre and Rapid Community Hazard Recovery Needs and Capacities* assessment tool to use with communities that have experienced a disaster, to better understand the social and community impacts experienced as a result of the disaster. The outcomes of this work will assist the department in considering the factors that build a community's resilience and improve planning for recovery processes in future disaster affected areas.

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » The State Community Recovery Committee, chaired by the DoC, supports the department to fulfil its functional agency responsibility for community recovery. The State Community Recovery Committee brings together a range of government agencies and NGOs who have key roles to play in helping communities recover from disasters. Individual agency contributions to community recovery are reflected in the 2007 *Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of community recovery services in a disaster*. This Memorandum of Understanding will be formally reviewed in 2009.
- » In a disaster event the department's District Community Recovery Committees respond to the need for recovery services, taking account of the scale, impact and location of the specific disaster and the capacity of local agencies to respond. The State Community Recovery Committee provides advice to district community recovery operations and works collaboratively to support requests for additional community recovery assistance across the State of Queensland.

### Disaster Risk Assessment

- » The District Disaster Community Recovery Plan Template, developed in 2007 to guide community recovery planning across Queensland's 23 disaster districts, contains information to assist District Community Recovery Committees identify potential vulnerable groups in their local area, critical social and economic infrastructure and specific disaster-type risks. Completed district plans are due for submission to district groups by November each year.

## Disaster Preparedness

- » The DoC prepares for its role in coordinating community recovery services by providing community recovery training for staff, participating in exercises to test elements of community recovery service delivery and planning for community recovery operations at both the district and state level. All these activities are done in collaboration with key government and non-government partner agencies.

## Community Recovery Training and Exercises

- » A total of 1,854 government staff participated in the *Introduction to Community Recovery* training program run by the DoC in the 2007-2008 reporting period. The department also updated its training DVD, *A Call to Action*, to include flood and EI footage and key messages about partner agency contributions to community recovery.
- » The department participated in a number of regional exercises with other agencies to enhance its ability to deliver community recovery services following a disaster. These exercises included:
  - » Exercise *Ocean Storm* (Gold Coast 24-26 July 2007)
  - » Exercise *Medusa* (Toowoomba 30 May-17 June 2008), a pandemic influenza exercise focusing on real-time situation reporting and culminating in a discussion exercise on 17 June 2008
  - » *Atherton Tablelands* exercises (11 June 2008), involving the establishment of a coordination centre that included partner agencies. In the Cairns Regional Office the exercise was extended to incorporate Exercise Harbour Wave, an internal communications exercise for a mock Tsunami warning.

## Planning for Community Recovery

- » During 2007 the department chaired the Pandemic Influenza Social Impact and Recovery working group. Members of the group worked with representatives of government and NGOs to identify the potential impacts of a pandemic influenza on the Queensland community. This engagement has informed the development of draft planning templates and processes for use by District Community Recovery Committees and the State Community Recovery Committee to support Queensland's preparedness to respond to a pandemic. As at 30 June 2008 the department is engaged in trialling these planning documents with the State Community Recovery Committee and District Community Recovery Committees in

far north Queensland, north Queensland, Moreton and Darling Downs/south west Queensland regions. Feedback from the workshops will be used to finalise the templates which will be incorporated into community recovery plans across the State in 2008-2009.

## Resources to support community recovery

- » In 2007-2008 there was an emphasis on ensuring that resources required to support service delivery were available across the department's regions, including identification vests for departmental staff working in the field following a disaster, IT equipment to support system wide communications and reporting and signage to publicise the location of One-Stop-Shops.

## Managing data for operational and reporting purposes

- » An event-specific database was developed to assist with data management for the EI and monsoonal flooding events. While the current system represents an improvement over previous data capture mechanisms, it was designed to meet the immediate short-term needs in the administration of grants made to the NDRRA. The department will use this database for any future disaster events pending the development and testing of the more sophisticated Community Recovery Recording and Reporting Database which is being built by Shared Information Solutions (SIS) during the 2008-2009 financial year. This new database will be capable of managing multiple disaster events, supporting multiple users and producing reports in both the Community Recovery Unit and regional offices. It is anticipated that the database will be available for user-testing by December 2008.
- » The Director-General DoC has received support from Directors-General across the State Government to make available public sector employees who would be willing to sign up for the whole of Government community recovery register, receive training and to be deployed to support the DoC to fulfil its role following a disaster. As of 30 June 2008, 267 of these staff had registered and approximately 127 have completed the required community recovery training. The goal is to recruit and train 300 employees from across government before the next TC and severe weather season.

## Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » Several large scale community recovery activities occurred during the 2007-2008 year:
  - » The department participated in the Operational Response and Recovery Management Group established on 24 August 2007 to coordinate Queensland's response to the EI outbreak. On 27 September 2007 the Premier announced a comprehensive support package for individuals, families and businesses which enabled the establishment of four One-Stop-Shops and nine mobile teams to assist individuals where communities were most in need. In total, the department assisted over 5,208 people via the Recovery Hotline and a further 3,800 impacted by EI with personal hardship grants totalling over \$1.1 million.
  - » In October 2007 the department provided community recovery services to assist families from the Tara and Jandowae communities who were affected by the central and southern Queensland storms from 7-12 October 2007. Later that month, the department also assisted individuals from Moreton, Wide Bay/Burnett and Fitzroy/Central-West regions who suffered personal hardship as a result of the central and south Queensland severe storms from 28-30 October 2007. The department established a Community Recovery Centre at Gayndah and deployed an outreach team to Emerald. Emergent Assistance Grant payments and Essential Household Contents Grants were provided to eligible residents.
  - » In the first few months of 2008 there were numerous activations in response to flooding that triggered the NDRRA across most areas of Queensland. People who experienced personal hardship as a result of the floods were able to apply for grants from the DoC of up to \$160 per person and \$740 per family to help them purchase necessities such as clothing and food. Means-tested financial assistance was also paid to help Queenslanders off set the cost of repairing or replacing their uninsured essential household contents, such as bedding and white goods damaged by the floodwaters. As at 30 June 2008, the department had provided \$6.48 million of this type of personal hardship assistance to Queensland householders impacted by the floods. Over \$4.1 million of this assistance was paid to residents of Mackay. As at 30 June 2008, the department had also provided over \$33,000 in means tested grants to help residents repair their uninsured homes. A number of applications for this type of

assistance from Mackay residents is still being processed.

- » As at 30 June 2008 community recovery operations in the Mackay area are continuing with a Mackay Flood Recovery Team comprising 25 workers located within the community to ensure required services continue to be available to affected residents.
- » During May 2008 Community Recovery Outreach teams were also deployed in response to the Collingwood Park land subsidence at the request of DME. The DoC also continues to support the DME One Stop Shop.



- » Communication is a critical issue during community recovery operations. The DoC is a member of Queensland's Crisis Communication Network and worked with other member agencies to generate and distribute whole-of-Government communications containing information about: insurance, health and safety, quarantine requirements, transport, community assistance, federal and local government assistance and the availability of emergency accommodation and food.



- » The media were also used to provide communities with information about One-Stop-Shop locations and opening hours and where to seek a wide range of assistance coordinated by the department.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » The department participated in EI debriefs conducted by DPI&F and also ran debriefs with the State Community Recovery Committee to consider lessons learned from both the EI experience as well as the 2008 monsoonal floods. Officers from the department's centrally located Community Recovery Unit also facilitated debriefs with the Fitzroy Central-West Region to identify areas for improvement in future community recovery activations.

### Future Priorities

- » The department's experiences with EI and monsoonal flooding highlighted areas to strengthen community recovery administration processes and systems to support the department's role in coordinating and providing recovery services. Systems capability will be a key focus in 2008-2009.
- » A key focus of the DoC will continue to be the strengthening of workforce capacity available to support the department during recovery activations. The department will continue to recruit, train, manage and retain a pool of public servants across government as well as continue to deliver mandatory training to employees of the DoC and Disability Services Queensland.
- » The Community Recovery Recording and Reporting Database will be capable of managing multiple disaster events, supporting multiple users and producing reports in both the Community Recovery Unit and regional offices. This database has been custom-designed to the business requirements of community recovery and will be built by SIS during the 2008-2009 financial year. It is anticipated that the database will be available for user-testing by December 2008.

## Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

- » The Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) implemented a debriefing and evaluation procedure for the EI activation in late 2007 and the Queensland monsoonal flooding activation from late December 2007 to March 2008. Findings highlighted the:
  - » importance of prevention and preparedness activities for business and industry
  - » need to facilitate business and industry self-reliance, resilience and sustainability
  - » need to consider the appropriate time to offer non-financial government support. Non-financial government support needs to occur after people have first addressed immediate personal issues associated with an event.
- » DTRDI conducted an economic impact study on the effects of monsoonal flooding on Queensland industry in early 2008. The department worked collaboratively with Commerce Queensland and the local Chamber of Commerce to survey businesses in the Mackay region to capture data for the economic impact study.

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » DTRDI developed and introduced its disaster management arrangements across the department and conducts its response to disaster events through a centrally coordinated Internal Disaster Management Group.

### Disaster Risk Assessment

- » Disaster management manuals incorporating risk management have been developed for Regional Centres to improve preparedness and optimise capacity to support business and industry following disaster events.

### Disaster Mitigation

- » The department:
  - » participated in several inter-agency mitigation committees such as the SDMC
  - » undertook disaster mitigation activities in relation to internal business planning and through one-on-one consultation sessions and workshops provided to business and industry.



### Disaster Preparedness

- » Following TC Larry, the department developed an online planning tool, known as the *Natural Disaster Resilience Planning Tool*, which continued to be refined and updated during 2007-2008.
- » On 22 May 2008, the department participated in *Exercise Sustain*, a COAG pandemic planning exercise conducted in Sydney. The focus of the exercise was the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government in maintaining social and economic functionality and supporting recovery when a human influenza pandemic is spread across Australia.

### Disaster Response

- » The department has in place an Internal Disaster Management Group which coordinates its response. The system was designed based on learnings from TC Larry.
- » The department placed its internal system on alert during the EI outbreak in November 2007 and the Queensland monsoonal flooding in early 2008 and supported the State group and the SDCG in response to these activations.
- » The department also reviews its internal disaster management system following events and activations.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » The department responded to two significant events where recovery services were required:
  - » development and implementation of one-on-one consultation sessions and workshops for businesses impacted by the EI outbreak in November 2007
  - » development and implementation of one-on-one consultation sessions for businesses impacted by the Queensland monsoonal flooding in Mackay, Emerald and Charleville from January-March 2008.
- » DTRDI provided professional expert advice relating to crisis management and recovery planning through one-on-one consultation sessions for eligible business owners and operators impacted by EI and the floods. Assistance was provided to 17 businesses to manage through the immediate crisis and develop recovery plans to assist them to remain viable in the long term.

- » All eligible business owners who accessed support through the EI and Queensland monsoonal flooding 2008 Business Support Programs expressed appreciation for the practical assistance that enabled them to manage through the crisis, experience immediate improvements to their bottom line and increase their capacity to recover.
- » The department is adapting material for workshops and online tools developed specifically for the EI outbreak to create generic online tools that all small business owners will be able to access to develop risk management, mitigation and recovery plans. These tools will assist businesses to become increasingly self-reliant in their ability to manage risks.
- » DTRDI assistance complemented the government financial assistance provided through the NDRRA administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA). Officers of the department referred 30 small businesses in Emerald, 13 in Charleville and 40 in Mackay to QRAA as potential applicants for assistance.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » During 2007-2008 the department:
  - » reviewed and updated its internal disaster management system following exercises and events conducted during the 2007-2008 period
  - » conducted post disaster debrief and evaluations.

### Future Priorities

- » DTRDI will undertake a pre-season email promotional campaign using Vemail across all regions.
- » The department's regional centres will promote preparedness using a variety of channels including local business networks, workshops and local media columns.
- » Training of relevant DTRDI officers will be undertaken to ensure adequate skill levels of officers coordinating departmental disaster management operations.

# Queensland Health

## Disaster Research

- » Q-Health and its senior specialist clinical and scientific officers continue to provide proactive and comprehensive expert advice into the various emergency medical and disaster response preparedness research agenda and projects, coordinated through the Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC).
- » The Chief Health Officer is a core member of the AHPC.

## Disaster Policy and Governance

- » Q-Health contributed to the State level disaster policy and governance review work including:
  - » the 2008 State Plan (including associated disaster management arrangements)
  - » *HazMat Incident Recovery Plan*
  - » State Disaster Recovery Committee review
  - » Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce.
- » The Chief Health Officer is a member of the SDCG and the Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- » As a consequence of the staged reorganisation of governance and structure within Q-Health, the department has made a priority over 2007-2008 of a comprehensive review of disaster preparedness and emergency management incident response capacity across health services. This work, completed in June 2008, has produced an updated version of the Q-Health Disaster Plan, a sub-plan of the State Plan, incorporating a staff disaster preparedness training and education framework and a Q-Health Disaster Exercise Program.

## Disaster Risk Assessment

- » The major focus during 2007-2008 has been the assessment of the mass casualty surge capacity of Queensland major hospitals conducted utilising the internationally recognised Emergo train exercise methodology and performance measurement.
- » The ongoing risk analysis associated with the potential pandemic influenza threat has continued at both National and State level with the results of this work informing the development of national health response strategies.

## Disaster Preparedness

- » A major element of the internal review of the department's disaster preparedness has been the completion of a six-month project in July 2008, to identify the following:
  - » the current baseline for Emergency Preparedness and Continuity Management (EPCM) capability at facility, district, area and corporate divisional levels
  - » consistent EPCM governance system of command, control and coordination including key emergency management roles and responsibilities (aligned to the State disaster management arrangements)
  - » consistent EPCM planning templates
  - » that existing EPCM plans confirm EPCM compliance
  - » an annual EPCM exercise management and reporting program
  - » anticipated resources required to support ongoing EPCM response capability for 2008-2009 and outer years (refer Divisional and Health Service District Action Plans).

## Disaster Response

- » The Q-Health Disaster Plan is frequently activated either in part or in whole. Recent activations have included the following:

### 2007

- » Bindeez Beads:
  - » withdrawal of potentially dangerous 'toy'
- » activation of Public Health Services and media campaign.
- » EI Outbreak-Warwick:
  - » establishment of a health service at Morgan Park for approximately 250 people
  - » catering from Warwick Hospital and the establishment of primary care and mental health clinics
  - » continued support to the DPI&F
  - » assisting in sourcing materials such as needles and syringes
  - » provided scientific support to decontamination procedures.
- » Jakarta Plane Crash:
  - » on standby.
- » Matilda Petrol Supply Threat:
  - » provided public health support.
- » APEC:
  - » provision of health services at Cairns and Coolum.

## 2008

- » Floods in Queensland:
  - » activation late January to late March 2008
  - » evacuation by air of 35 residents of an aged care facility from Charleville to Brisbane
  - » all areas of Q-Health involved in the response and recovery of the community for several months.
- » Commonwealth Support:
  - » deployment of a neurosurgeon to Darwin at the Australian Government's request following the attempted assassination of the East Timorese president.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » Q-Health continues to provide both strategic planning and tactical response support to statewide and local events as required.
- » Mental health support was provided to Morgan Park (Warwick) during the EI outbreak where 200 plus persons voluntarily quarantined themselves with their horses.
- » Both Population Health and Mental Health Services provided ongoing support during the flooding which effected large areas in Queensland.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » Q-Health conducts operational debriefings on all health deployment incidents. Lessons learned are agreed and utilised to inform review and further development of emergency plans, resource requirements and operational deployment protocols. Where and as required, operational debriefs include personnel from other responding agencies.

### Future Priorities

- » The main priorities for 2008-2009 are:
  - » exercising the district groups to strengthen understanding and response capability to support Q-Health in a community response to the pandemic influenza threat
  - » the updated version of the Q-Health Disaster Plan (sub-plan of the State Plan, incorporating a staff disaster preparedness training and education framework) and a Queensland Health Disaster Exercise Program will be rolled out across health services during 2008-2009
  - » the roll-out of the new nationally accredited psychosocial emergency responder standards and response protocols under the auspices of the Mental Health Branch, Q-Health.



Photo courtesy of Central Queensland News.



# State Group Advisors

## Department Employment and Industrial Relations

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

#### Tropical Cyclone Larry

- » On 16 July 2007 a job placement project employing 85 participants commenced in Cairns to clear, clean and heal the country by clearing traditional and public walking tracks, waterways and traditional cultural sites affected by TC Larry.
- » The project cleared and removed fallen timber and other cyclone debris along walking tracks of the respective areas. The project addressed the immediate need of both skilling Indigenous peoples and cleaning-up traditional country. These activities linked with other activities that were being carried out by Aboriginal Rainforest Council that aim to provide Indigenous peoples with the skills and opportunities to manage their traditional estate and to create sustainable employment opportunities.
- » The project provided clean-up activities in two areas located in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of far-northern Queensland: Kearneys Flat (Goldsborough Valley) and Jiyer Caves (Bartle Frere).

#### Equine Influenza

- » On 29 September 2007 the Cabinet Budget Review Committee approved a \$20 million package of measures specifically designed to assist Queenslanders who were facing hardship as a result of the outbreak of EI. The package included a \$5 million program to assist with maintaining a viable Queensland equine industry with \$4 million of this funding available to provide employment assistance to individuals in the equine industry affected by the outbreak. To support the 2008 Winter Racing Carnival, \$1 million was invested in a major marketing and advertising campaign.
- » The quarantine restrictions arising from the outbreak of EI severely impacted on the equine industry's ability to retain workers. The employment recovery component of the Queensland Government's \$20 million *Equine Influenza Response Package* was designed to support community-based organisations to develop proposals to provide short-term employment to the end of March 2008 for workers associated with the equine industry who could demonstrate that they had suffered a loss of income as a result of EI. These short-term work opportunities were expected to assist approximately 150 people.

- » The Queensland Harness Racing Board was approved to coordinate the recovery activity across the industry including thoroughbred racing, harness racing and the pleasure and performance industry. On 22 October 2007 the first two of five Recovery Coordinators commenced duty with the Queensland Harness Racing Board at Albion. The remaining three coordinators started work on 29 October 2007. The Recovery Coordinators were nominated by the thoroughbred, harness and pleasure and performance industries to represent their particular interests.
- » A work placement project was also approved to allow seven participants to work for the Queensland Harness Racing Board to assist horse owners to access the Australian Government's Commercial Horse Assistance Payment and to manage the additional track biosecurity measures introduced by the DPI&F to combat the spread of the EI. Six projects totalling \$1.47 million were approved to assist approximately 120 workers affected by the outbreak of EI. These projects covered a mixture of job preparation and work placements.
- » The Construction Training Centre was contracted to manage a project designed to undertake painting of the grand stand seats, running rails and general landscaping of the Eagle Farm, Albion Park and Doomben race tracks. This project employed 35 people mainly from racing associated employment areas. The Construction Training Centre also managed a project designed to provide a makeover for the Redcliffe and Deagon race tracks and the showgrounds at Burpengary and Caboolture. This project employed 27 participants, drawn from the ranks of the performance and pleasure and the racing industries.
- » Challenge Employment and Training (a division of the Ipswich YUPI Program) was contracted to manage a project involving the painting and landscaping of the Ipswich and Marburg race tracks. This project employed 23 participants largely drawn from the pleasure and performance industry.
- » Career Employment Australia, a Gold Coast based community organisation, was contracted to manage a project employing 22 participants mostly from the pleasure and performance industry. This project provided painting and minor works to a range of organisations ranging from the Gold Coast Race Club, Beaudesert Showgrounds, Jimboomba Pony Club, Riding for the Disabled Association at Greenbank, Beaudesert Race Track and the Greenbank Pony Club. Participants were drawn from all avenues of equine activity. The project conducted at the Albion Park, Doomben and Eagle Farm racecourses provided employment for a number of staff who had lost their jobs at Silk's restaurant after patronage fell following the cessation of racing.



## Environmental Protection Agency

### Disaster Policy and Governance

- » Complete re development of the agency's business continuity plan incorporating incident management protocols to cover all aspects of agency critical functions to strengthen agency resilience and adaptiveness.

### Disaster Risk Assessment

- » Continued development of comprehensive agency risk management policy and procedures to be supported by an enterprise risk management system.

### Disaster Mitigation

- » Ongoing monitoring of weather forecasts and alerts.
- » Ongoing monitoring, assessment and response trigger risk management of hazardous trees in public areas.

### Disaster Preparedness

- » Additional ongoing funding of \$0.5 million from 2007-2008 allowed recruitment of four specialist officers to enhance the capability of the EPA to provide an environmental advisory service to agencies controlling chemical and pollution incident response and recovery. Three of these positions have been filled with the remainder to be re-advertised in the early part of 2008-2009. These officers form the agency's Incident Response Unit.

### Disaster Response

- » During December 2007 and January 2008, in the interest of public safety due to severe weather conditions and severe weather forecast reports issued by the Bureau, the EPA worked closely with EMQ, the State Group and Local Groups to evacuate sections of and close Fraser Island, Inskip Point and other affected areas of the Great Sandy National Park.

The EPA first advised, and then as weather deteriorated, directed campers on the eastern beach of Fraser Island, Teewah Beach and Inskip to leave the area. EPA closed Fraser Island and Inskip point including not issuing any vehicle or camping permits. As conditions improved the EPA scaled back the closure and kept only the Eastern Beach on Fraser Island and flooded sections of the Noosa River closed.

- » In January 2008, EPA storm tide advisors deployed to the SDCC to provide advice on storm tide threat during ex TC Helen, Gulf of Carpentaria and the south east region floods.

### Disaster Relief and Recovery

- » Continuation of the Binary Site Remediation Project, a multi million dollar contaminated land clean up project at Narangba. On completion the EPA will have successfully treated more than 25 million litres of contaminated water and 15,000 tonnes of soil.

### Post-Disaster Assessment

- » On-ground safety inspections of facilities to identify and address damage and hazards.
- » Great Sandy National Park closure debrief identified where better coordination could have occurred and planned tactical and longer-term responses to improve outcomes from future events.

### Future Priorities

- » As a result of the Great Sandy National Park closure debrief it was determined that the EPA will:
  - » meet with EMQ senior staff and the State group to clarify the decision making process and media contacts for future incidents
  - » review the role of the agency's Incident Control System for similar situations
  - » review means of contacting campers and visitors on park
  - » review information technology support and communication systems
  - » review agency representation on the State group.

## Disaster Management Alliance

- » The Disaster Management Alliance (DM Alliance) is a formal partnership between DES and the LGAQ, representing Queensland local councils. The objective of the DM Alliance is to increase disaster management capacity and capability at the local level. The DM Alliance Board oversees the activities of the project, provides direction to the Project Officer and also considers broader disaster management issues relating to local government.
- » Current Board Members are:
  - » Director-General, DES (Chair)

- » Executive Director, Emergency Management Queensland, DES
- » Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Executive Services, DES
- » Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ
- » Director Policy and Representation, LGAQ
- » Manager Roads, Transport and Infrastructure, LGAQ
- » DM Alliance Project Officer (Secretariat)
- » As a minimum, the Board meets three times a year with the position of Chair rotating annually between the two organisations.

#### **Key achievements:**

- » LGAQ Annual Conference: Disaster Planning, A 'How to' Workshop:
 

Status: Delivered August 2007

Outcome: Engaged and better prepared councils with more skills to undertake local disaster management planning in their local community.
- » Children and Young Persons Disaster Management Resources:
 

Status: Delivered September 2007

Outcomes: Two innovative resources for disaster managers to effectively engage with children and young people in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
- » Incorporating Disaster Management Into Local Government Corporate Planning Practices:
 

Status: Delivered July 2008

Outcome: A comprehensive planning guideline to support the incorporation of disaster management into the core business of local government planning processes and practices. Workshops were held in eight regional centres for 100 elected officials and council officers to support the implementation of these guidelines. The guidelines will provide a better understanding of the role of council in disaster management and better appreciation of the internal plans and arrangements necessary to successfully achieve this role.
- » In addition, the DM Alliance responded to a number of operational requests from the State

for assistance to support operational activities in councils:

- » EI: The DM Alliance Project Officer was deployed to the State Disease Control Centre, initially to support engagement and contact with councils affected. The DM Alliance provided a range of information to councils, as well as acting as facilitating the communication networks between councils and the SDCC.
- » Floods/storms: during the widespread storms and associated floods of early 2008, the DM Alliance Project Officer provided a point of contact and information for councils and the State disaster management arrangements. The DM Alliance facilitated communication between councils and provided feedback of aggregated information for the Disaster Management System operational managers.
- » The DM Alliance continued to provide representation at state level committees and specific working groups, including:
  - » State Disaster Management Group
  - » State Disaster Mitigation Committee
  - » Queensland Tropical and Cyclone Consultative Committee
  - » State Community Recovery Committee
  - » Pandemic Influenza Social and Community Working Group
  - » Counter Terrorism and Infrastructure Working Group
  - » Rural Fire Ministerial Advisory Council
  - » Bushfire Interdepartmental Committee.

#### **Future Priorities:**

- » The DM Alliance will continue to focus on building the capability and capacity of councils in the next year. Particular focus will be given to the needs of those councils affected by amalgamations to ensure development of appropriate plans, arrangements and structures to meet the local disaster management needs of the community.
- » Development of an annual conference program to examine and discuss local government disaster management issues.
- » Re development and promotion of the local government online disaster management resource.
- » Further development of inter-operational capability and regional cooperation between councils.
- » The continuation of the DM Alliance beyond December 2008 will also be a priority to ensure the continued development of the disaster management capacity and capability of Queensland councils.

## Glossary

### Elements of the Strategic Policy Framework

Background: The COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)* identified the need for a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management, particularly with the emergence of new threats such as terrorism and threats of a pandemic. This approach, including the disaster management elements was adopted in the development of the SPF.

Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, s13(1)</i>
Disaster management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, s14</i>
Disaster mitigation	The means taken in advance of, or after a disaster, aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster Operations	Activities undertaken before, during or after an event to help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment, including, for example, activities to mitigate the adverse effects of the event. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, s15</i>
Disaster preparedness	Arrangements that ensure that, should an emergency occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster research	May be broadly understood as a systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, S80(2)</i>
Disaster response	Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster relief and recovery	Disaster relief is the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional social, economic, physical wellbeing. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster risk assessment	The process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria. COAG report <i>Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Policy and governance	Policy and governance elements ensure clear direction of disaster management priorities, resource allocation and accountability through sound performance management and risk management for the whole disaster management system.

## Further Information

- » Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases  
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aahc/index.cfm?E9711767-B85D-D391-45FC-CDBC07BD1CD4>
- » Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVET PLAN)  
<http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/aquatic/aquavetplan>
- » Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANT PLAN):  
[http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/project\\_documents/display\\_document.asp?ID=395&category=20](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/project_documents/display_document.asp?ID=395&category=20)
- » Council of Australian Governments (COAG) report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)  
<http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/policy.jsp#COAG>
- » Disaster Management Act 2003  
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2003/03AC091.pdf>
- » Disaster management arrangements in Queensland  
[www.disaster.gov.au](http://www.disaster.gov.au) and [www.emergency.qld.gov.au](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au)
- » Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework  
[www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications)
- » Emergency Management Australia  
<http://www.ema.gov.au/>
- » Emergency Management Queensland  
<http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/>
- » Emergency Service Units  
[www.emergency.qld.gov.au/esu](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/esu)
- » National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic  
<http://www.dpmc.gov.au/publications/pandemic/index.cfm>
- » Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements  
[http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities\\_Natural\\_Disasters\\_NDRRA\\_Natural\\_Disaster\\_Relief\\_and\\_Recovery\\_Arrangements\\_\(NDRRA\)](http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_(NDRRA))
- » State Disaster Management Group Annual Reports  
<http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/>
- » State Emergency Service  
[www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses)



## Acronyms used in this report

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
AEMC	Australian Emergency Management Committee
AHPC	Australian Health Protection Committee
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CDWG	Catastrophic Disaster Working Group
CHEM	Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COMDISPLAN	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DEIR	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
DES	Department of Emergency Services
District Group	District Disaster Management Group
District Plan	District Disaster Management Plan
DLGSR	Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation
DM Act	Disaster Management Act 2003
DM Alliance	Disaster Management Alliance
DME	Department of Mines and Energy
DMR	Department of Main Roads
DoC	Department of Communities
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DP Group	Department of Public Works Disaster Preparedness Group
DPI&F	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
DPW	Department of Public Works
DTRDI	Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
EI	Equine Influenza
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPCM	Emergency Preparedness and Continuity Management
FMM	Finance Ministers Meeting
GAP	Government Asset Protection
HazMat	hazardous materials
LGAQ	Local Government Association Queensland
LGR	Local Government Reform
Local Group	Local Disaster Management Group
Local Plan	Local Disaster Management Plan
MCPPEM	Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management
MHF	major hazard facilities
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
NDMP	Natural Disaster Mitigation Program

NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NGOs	non-government organisations
One-Stop-Shops	Community Recovery Centres
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QCESA	Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy
QFRS	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
Q-Health	Queensland Health
Qkits	Queensland Kits
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QR	Queensland Rail
QRAA	Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority
QTCCC	Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDCG	State Disaster Coordination Group
SDMC	State Disaster Mitigation Committee
SEQ	south east Queensland
SES	State Emergency Service
SIS	Shared Information Solutions
SOCC	State Operations Coordination Centre
SPF	Strategic Policy Framework
State group	State Disaster Management Group
State Plan	State Disaster Management Plan
TC	Tropical Cyclone
The Bureau	Bureau of Meteorology
the DM Act	Disaster Management Act 2003
Transport	Queensland Transport
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
XO	Executive Officer



# Reader Feedback Form

## State Disaster Management Group Annual Report 2007-2008

We would value your feedback and ask that you take a few minutes to complete this survey so we can continue to improve the reporting process.

Please  tick the appropriate response.

1. The style and language of this annual report was:

- far too simple
- too simple
- just right
- too complex
- far too complex

2. The level of detail in this annual report was:

- far too little
- too little
- just right

3. The length of the annual report, for our purposes was:

- far too short
- too short
- just right
- far too long

4. I found the design of the annual report to be:

- very unappealing
- unappealing
- acceptable
- appealing
- very appealing

5. Compared to previous State Group annual reports, this report was:

- much worse
- worse
- about the same
- better
- much better

OR

- I haven't read any previous annual reports.

6. Was your agency a contributor to the report?

Did you provide any contributions to the report content?

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7. Suggestions – if there was one thing I could do to improve the quality or content of the annual report it would be:

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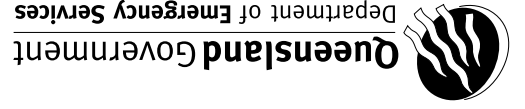
Facsimile: (07) 3247 8505

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