



The Queensland Government Climate Change Response

To address the future climate outlook, the Queensland Government released the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS) in July 2017, which is being led by the Department of Environment and Science (DES). The aim of Q-CAS is an innovative and resilient Queensland that manages the risks and harnesses the opportunities of a changing climate.

The Q-CAS has four pathways that seek to facilitate a holistic approach to climate adaptation with a total of 18 actions. The four pathways include People and Knowledge, State Government, Local Governments and Regions and, Sectors and Systems.

The development of eight Sector Adaptation Plans is part of the initial action under the Sectors and Systems

pathway. They are intended to be high-level strategic documents that map the current status of climate change adaptation and identify climate adaptation priorities for each sector.

For more information on the Queensland Government's Climate Change Response, go to: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/response>

The Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EM-SAP)

The Emergency Management Sector stands to be continually challenged by changes to the frequency, intensity, distribution and duration of acute events, major disasters and long-term climate related stresses. Importantly, the climate is already changing, and the need to incorporate climate change into the comprehensive approach across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery is paramount.

The EM-SAP provides a vision for the

sector and a series of principles and priorities in order to achieve it. It is a plan developed by the sector for the sector, and relies on all stakeholders engaged in Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements to actively contribute. By working together, the sector will be more effective and efficient at tackling the issues brought about by climate change.

This approach will enable Queensland to more deeply understand its current

and future disaster risk, strengthening governance and investment in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 13 for Climate Action. It also provides a platform for the Queensland Disaster Resilience Strategy commitment to 'identifying adaptation opportunities following disasters and in anticipation of climate change' and 'making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia'.

Vision - *An adaptive emergency management sector that is fully engaged with the risks and opportunities of a changing climate, building resilience together with the communities of Queensland.*

Principles

11 principles have been identified to guide climate adaptation activities within the sector. Three principles (outlined below) have been developed specifically for the Emergency Management Sector, with remaining eight being adopted directly from the Q-CAS.

1. Adaptation should address the comprehensive approach to disaster management - prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
2. Adaptation should be considered using a systems approach, ensuring that it is responsive to local conditions and the needs of the entire community.
3. Adaptation should address both acute major events and continuous incremental change.



Priorities

The eight priorities identified within the plan seek to further engrain climate change into sector strategic investment and disaster management planning at all levels. Each priority within the plan has a rationale, identified actions, desired outcomes and associated challenges.

1. Sector-led awareness and engagement about climate change to increase the awareness and understanding of climate change science within the sector and the broader community.
2. Integration of climate change into sector governance and policy to align policy positions across the sector where possible and facilitate cross-sector planning.
3. Enhancing the sector's understanding of climate change risk and its ability to adapt to climate-related risks facing their organisations.
4. Research and development of new knowledge and supporting tools to support the consideration of climate change in sector decision making and planning.
5. Allocation of resources to support sector adaptation where measures have been identified.
6. Increasing the resilience of infrastructure critical to the sector and community through working closely with infrastructure providers and operators.
7. Promoting and enabling community resilience-building and self-reliance through the provision of enhanced climate change information to communities and guidance as to how they can be better prepared for expected impacts.
8. Volunteerism, volunteering and workforce management and exploring them through a climate change lens to understand and plan for the potential impacts on workforce health and availability.

For further information on the EM-SAP and the intended next steps for implementation, go to the 'Disaster Management Plans' section at www.disaster.qld.gov.au

Why wait? Immediate actions for sector stakeholders

Sector organisations should review the priorities and principles in their own organisational contexts and how they may be applied or included in planning processes.

QFES has already commenced

examining methods to incorporate climate projections into the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF) ensuring Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements will be supported by contemporary and forward-looking climate science.

A suite of five case studies have been developed to demonstrate sector activities already underway in support of climate adaptation action. If you have a similar case study to share with the sector, please send an email to sdu@qfes.qld.gov.au

Further information

For further information on the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan or Climate Change Information, please contact:

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