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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minister for Emergency Services activated the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements twice for natural disaster events that impacted Queensland during this period, although some areas were impacted by multiple events between January and April 2010.

Due to the potential impact of TC Ului, and the severe flooding in Charleville and Roma Disaster Districts, the Minister for Emergency Services declared a Disaster Situation under the provisions of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* on four occasions.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) was activated on five occasions outside normal business hours to support operations relating to cyclones and severe flooding. The SDCC Watch Desk also assisted in numerous minor operations that occurred state-wide but did not warrant formal out of hour's activation of the SDCC.

Extensive rain fell across most of Queensland from late December 2009 to April 2010. During a10-day period over February and early March, the Bureau of Meteorology estimated 403 cubic kilometres, or 403,000 gigalitres of rain fell across the Northern Territory and Queensland. Much of Queensland received very high falls with many places recording over 100mm in 24 hour periods. An area larger than the State of Victoria was flooded and wide spread road closures occurred, which resulted in over 35 tonnes of essential foods and supplies being airlifted to isolated communities. Several communities were resupplied multiple times due to their long period of isolation resulting from the flooding.

There were no visits to Queensland by nuclear powered warships.





STATE DISASTER COORDINATION CENTRE

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was involved in the following operations during this period:

Central & South West Queensland Flooding - 22 Dec 2009 - 8 January 2010

Between 22 December 2009 and 4 January 2010, heavy rainfall caused flooding in 23 local government areas in Central and South West Queensland. Flood water significantly damaged roads, but property was not significantly inundated. Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding was made available for the affected.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was not activated but was monitoring the situation during the period.

Tropical Cyclones (TC) Neville & Olga - January / February 2010



Tropical Cyclone Neville (Category 1) initially began as a tropical low over northwest Gulf of Carpentaria waters on 14 January. The low remained very slow moving in the area until 17 January when the system began to move east towards the Cape York Peninsula. The low reached the northwest waters of the Coral Sea by 19 January and was named TC Neville during the early hours on 21 January, but quickly weakened back to a tropical low later that morning.

Tropical Cyclone Olga (Category 1) initially crossed the coast as a tropical low approximately 25km south of Cairns early on 25 January before it began to make the journey westwards across inland Queensland to the Gulf.

TC Olga re-intensified into a tropical cyclone and made landfall about the Gulf Country coast for the final time early on 30 January as a category 1 system. The system then continued to move in a southerly direction across inland Queensland while also delivering widespread rain to much of the state.

Mornington Island was resupplied with food (6,600kg) and Normanton, Karumba and Georgetown were isolated. Some residents of Karumba self-evacuated to Normanton. NDRRA funding was made available for the affected areas.

While tracking across the Coral Sea Olga interacted with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Neville in a manner referred to as the 'Fujiwhara Effect', whereby two low pressure systems can influence each other to the extent that they can tend to orbit each other like two planets. At their closest point the two systems came within less than 300km of each other on the night of 23 January.



The State Disaster Coordination Centre was activated between 21 January 2010 and 01 February 2010.



SE Storms and Flooding - February 2010

Very heavy rainfall overnight on the night of Saturday 06 February, continuing into the morning of Sunday 07 February impacted the South East Region. Over 400mm was recorded in places in the 24 hours from 0900 hrs 6 February and 0900 hrs 7 February. The main area impacted was the Gold Coast, but heavy rainfall also affected much of the remainder of the Region, as well as the majority of Brisbane Region and parts of the North Coast Region.



SES Groups across the South East were activated for a variety of storm damage related tasks, including roof damage, fallen trees and storm damage operations. Many roads were closed across the region, mainly due to flooding and roads or paths being washed away.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was not activated but was monitoring the situation during the period.

Queensland Storms - February 2010



A wide band of rain impacted a large part of Queensland on February 16 and 17, resulting in isolated flash flooding and many traffic disruptions. Central, North Coast, South East, South West and Brisbane Regions were all affected. The SES responded to requests for assistance for sandbagging and temporary roof repair jobs from Central region down to South Eastern region.

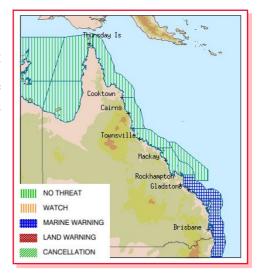
The State Disaster Coordination Centre was not activated but was monitoring the situation during the period.

Tsunami (Chile Earthquake) - 27 / 28 February 2010

On 27 February at approx 1730 hrs (0330 hrs Chile time) an earthquake measuring 8.8 magnitude occurred some 300km south of Santiago, the Chilean capital, near Concepcion, Chile's second largest city. Chilean authorities advised that more than 120 aftershocks have taken place since then. There were no reports of Australians injured as a result of the earthquake. As a result of the earthquake JATWC released a Tsunami Warning (marine) for Australia including Queensland marine and foreshore communities. Seven Emergency Alert Campaigns were conducted for low lying areas in and around the Gold Coast.

There was no significant impact and the Tsunami Warning was cancelled after the expected arrival time.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was activated from 27 to 28 February 2010.





Queensland Monsoonal Flooding - February / March 2010

The rain event began on 22 February when a strong low pressure system developed over the Top End within a monsoon trough. By 28 February, the monsoon low had moved into southwest Queensland, bringing widespread heavy rain, which then moved further east. A second low also formed off Queensland's eastern coastline near Fraser Island.

Daily totals exceeded 100 millimetres over 1.9 per cent of Australia on Tuesday, breaking the previous record of 1.7 per cent set on December 22, 1956. Another record was set on 2 March, with Queensland recording its wettest day with a state-wide average of 31.74 millimetres. Over the 10-



day period to 3 March, the Bureau of Meteorology estimated 403 cubic kilometres or 403,000 gigalitres of rain fell across the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Compared to the last similar floods in April 1990, peak rainfall amounts were smaller but heavy rains covered a much larger area. Bedourie and Birdsville in western Queensland both recorded their average yearly rainfall in just one day.



Flooding resulting from heavy rainfall from a monsoon and east coast low, developing of the Fraser Coast. A disaster situation was declared for Charleville after floods triggered evacuation of residents from inundated properties and the Charleville Waroona Nursing Home. Residents were also evacuated from properties in Roma. A number of towns were isolated during the period and required resupply including Karumba, Normanton and Birdsville — Bedourie.

Around 500 people relocated to the Charleville Showgrounds where an evacuation centre had been established. Residents were assisted by local disaster management authorities and Red Cross staff.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was activated between 1 March 2010 and 15 March 2010.

Tropical Cyclone Ului – March 2010

Tropical Cyclone Ului crossed the Queensland coastline between Bowen and Proserpine (near Airlie Beach) as a category 3 cyclone at around 0130 hrs on 21 March 2010 and weakened as it moved inland over the Collinsville area. Maximum wind speeds of 202km/h were experience at Hamilton Island as the cyclone made landfall. Heavy rainfall triggered a number of flood warnings for rivers in the area.



Emergency Management Queensland



Many trees fell as a result of the cyclone, some roads were closed due to flooding, and power was lost to some critical infrastructure during the event, but the majority was backed up with generators. The community was significantly affected by power outages for a number of days and up to 22 Schools were closed for a few days after the TC Ului.

The Department of Public Works estimated damages to infrastructure at close to \$1 million.

A disaster situation was declared on 20 March 2010 for the Local Government areas of Townsville;

Burdekin; Whitsunday and Charters Towers within the Townsville Disaster District and the Local Government areas of Mackay and Isaac within the Mackay Disaster District and the Local Government areas of Rockhampton and Central Highlands within the Rockhampton Disaster District. The declaration of a disaster situation for this event was cancelled 23 March 2010.

NDRRA was already activated for areas within the impact zone of TC Ului as a result of severe weather events from January to March 2010 and was subsequently extended to include TC Ului.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was activated between 18 March 2010 and 29 March 2010.

Tropical Cyclone Paul - April 2010

On 2 April 2010 at 1000 hours ex-TC Paul crossed the Qld coast as a low then re-entered NT. Ex TC Paul delivered significant rainfall into the catchment area of the Nicholson and Gregory River systems. This isolated all rural properties in the Burke Shire and isolated the town of Doomadgee.

NDRRA was already activated for areas within the impact zone of TC Paul as a result of severe weather events from January to March 2010 and was subsequently extended to include TC Paul.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was activated between 1 April 2010 and 13 April 2010.

Shen Neng 1 Oil Spill - 04 April - 31 May 2010

On Saturday 3 April 2010 (1710 hrs) the bulk carrier Shen Neng 1 grounded on Douglas Shoal, 37 nautical miles east of Great Keppel Island. At 0005 hrs on Sunday 4 April 2010, the Ship's master advised that a fuel oil tank was breached (it contained 150 tonnes of oil).

The incident was within the waters of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Under preexisting response arrangements, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) was the responsible agency and coordinated the response effort.



The Shen Neng was relocated from Gladstone to Hervey Bay in order to unload cargo (coal). After this was completed the boat was towed to Gladstone, before its eventual departure to China on Sunday 30 May 2010.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was not activated but monitored the event from 04 April to 28 May 2010.



Bureau of Meteorology

Disaster Operations has a very close relationship with the Bureau of Meteorology, as Queensland has a high frequency of severe natural phenomena affecting communities throughout the State.

During the period January to June 2010, 2,196 weather advices were received from the Bureau. 310 were warnings that required monitoring and notification to affected regions by the Watch Desk Officer. These warnings were for phenomena such as Flood, Severe Weather, Tropical Cyclone and Storm Tide.

An additional 1,886 reports were received from the Bureau but generally required minimal or no action as they were routine reports such as Coastal Waters Wind Warnings, Gale/Storm Warnings for shipping, Tropical Cyclone Outlooks, Tropical Cyclone Information Bulletins and Flood Summaries.

Summary of Resupply Operations

Widespread flooding over Central and Far North Queensland resulted in 15 resupply operations being coordinated by the State Disaster Coordination Centre. The total movement of supplies was over 35 tonnes. Some communities required multiple resupplies due to long periods of isolation caused by road closures. Additionally, a number of Local Governments conducted their own operations which were typically by light aircraft or mustering helicopters to isolated homesteads in their area.

State Level Resupply Operations:

Date	Destination	Cargo	Method	Kilograms
27/01/10	Karumba and Mornington Island	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	6,600
01/02/10	Doomadgee	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	480
09/02/10	Burketown	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	1,490
12/02/10	Coen	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	2,909
16/02/10	Thargomindah	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	3,592
23/02/10	Doomadgee	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	683
24/02/10	Coen	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	2,990
25/02/10	Burketown	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	3,262
03/03/10	Doomadgee	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	1,500
04/03/10	Coen	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	3190
29/03/10	Wujal Wujal	Essential foods	Rotary Wing	200
31/03/10	Doomadgee	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	800
06/04/10	Burketown	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	3,374
13/04/10	Coen	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	3,300
16/04/10	Doomadgee	Essential foods	Fixed Wing	934
			Total:	35,304



DISASTER RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS

The Minister for Emergency Services activated Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements twice during this period, however, many local government areas were impacted multiple times by different events. There was no activation of the State (funded) Disaster Relief Arrangements.

Northern, Central and South West Queensland Flooding - 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010



Communities within Northern, Central and South West Queensland affected by heavy rainfall and associated flooding activity from 22 December 2009 to 08 January 2010.

NDRRA Relief Measures Activated:

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Restoration of Essential Public Assets

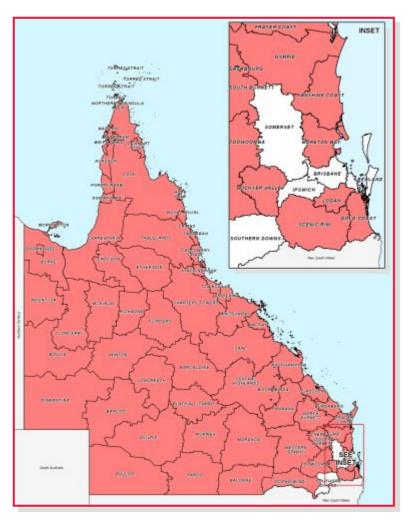
The Local Government areas affected were:

- Balonne Shire Council
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Barcoo Shire Council
- Blackall Tambo Regional Council
- Boulia Shire Council
- Bulloo Shire Council
- Burke Shire Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Diamantina Shire Council
- Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council

- Flinders Shire Council
- Longreach Regional Council
- Maranoa Regional Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Mornington Shire Council
- Mount Isa City Council
- Murweh Shire Council
- Paroo Shire Council
- Quilpie Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- Winton Shire Council



Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul - January to April 2010



Communities within Queensland affected by heavy rainfall and associated flooding activity during January to April 2010.

NDRRA Relief Measures Activated:

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Restoration of Essential Public Assets
- Concessional Loans for Primary Producers
- Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers
- Concessional Loans for Small Businesses

The Local Government areas affected were:

LGA	Counter Disaster Operations	Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	Restoration of Essential Public Assets	Concessional Loans for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Concessional Loans for Small Businesses
Aurukun Shire Council	✓		✓			
Balonne Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banana Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barcaldine Regional Council	✓		✓			
Barcoo Shire Council	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

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LGA	Counter Disaster Operations	Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	Restoration of Essential Public Assets	Concessional Loans for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Concessional Loans for Small Businesses
Boulia Shire Council	✓		✓			
Bulloo Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bundaberg Regional Council	✓		✓			
Burdekin Shire Council	✓		✓			
Burke Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cairns Regional Council	✓		✓			
Carpentaria Shire Council	✓	✓	✓			
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	✓		✓			
Central Highlands Regional Council	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Charters Towers Regional Council	✓		✓			
Cloncurry Shire Council	✓		✓			
Cook Shire Council	✓		✓			
Croydon Shire Council	✓		✓			
Diamantina Shire Council	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Etheridge Shire Council	✓		✓			
Flinders Shire Council	✓		√			
Fraser Coast Regional Council	✓		✓			
Gladstone Regional Council	✓		✓			
Gold Coast City Council	✓		✓			

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LGA	Counter Disaster Operations	Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	Restoration of Essential Public Assets	Concessional Loans for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Concessional Loans for Small Businesses
Goondiwindi Regional Council	✓		✓			
Gympie Regional Council	✓		✓			
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	✓		✓			
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Isaac Regional Council	✓	✓	✓			
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	✓		✓			
Logan City Council	✓		✓			
Longreach Regional Council	✓		✓			
Mackay Regional Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Maranoa Regional Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McKinlay Shire Council	✓		✓			
Mount Isa City Council	✓		✓			
Moreton Bay Regional Council	✓		✓			
Mornington Shire Council	✓		✓			
Murweh Regional Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	✓					

LGA	Counter Disaster Operations	Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	Restoration of Essential Public Assets	Concessional Loans for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Concessional Loans for Small Businesses
North Burnett Regional Council	✓		✓			
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	✓		✓			
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Paroo Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Quilpie Shire Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richmond Shire Council	✓		✓			
Rockhampton Regional Council	✓		✓			
Scenic Rim Regional Council	✓		✓			
South Burnett Regional Council	✓		✓			
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	✓		✓			
Tablelands Regional Council	✓		✓			
Toowoomba Regional Council	✓		✓			
Torres Shire Council	✓		✓			
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	✓		✓			
Townsville City Council	✓		✓			
Western Downs Regional Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whitsunday Regional Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Winton Shire Council	✓		✓			

Emergency Management Queensland

LGA	Counter Disaster Operations	Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	Restoration of Essential Public Assets	Concessional Loans for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Concessional Loans for Small Businesses
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	✓		✓			

Details of NDRRA Relief Measures and NDRRA Administering Authorities are available from:

http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/pdf/QLD Dis Relief Recovery Arrangements 2009-2010 v1.0 Final.pdf



NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP PROGRAM

Disaster Operations is the lead agency for coordinating Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) visits to Queensland ports for crew rest and recreation purposes, however there were no visits during this period.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Disaster Operations maintains an active role in organising and conducting disaster management activities at a State level.

The Disaster Operations Planning cell attended a two-day training workshop in March delivered at the Gold Coast City Council Disaster Management Unit, which focused on risk assessment and management principles.

Disaster Operations staff are encouraged to attend internal and external training activities and courses as part of their professional development and succession planning.

Internal training sessions conducted during this period included Task Tracking, Emergency Alert, and Introduction to the SDCC as well as organisation and participation in various exercises.

Staff attended external training in Joint Emergency Setrvices Training (JEST) and Disaster Management courses.

State Disaster Coordination Centre Training

To provide a surge capability during protracted operations, Disaster Operations has been conducting regular training sessions for EMQ and other departmental staff who are interested in assisting the SDCC during operational periods.



Exercises

EMQ South East Region Exercise Hot Chile

A tsunami planning exercise was held on 19 May 2010 involving the Gold Coast and Logan District Disaster Management Groups, the Gold Coast Local Disaster Management Group and the Gold Coast Local Disaster Coordination Centre. The SDCC was engaged to provide support in developing and submitting several fictitious Emergency Alert campaigns.

Exercise Poseidon

Exercise Poseidon was the first of seven planned disaster management exercises, and ran in EMQ's Far Northern Region from 8-10 June 2010. The exercise was designed around a hypothetical but realistic extreme weather event impacting the Regions critical infrastructure (Cairns and Innisfail Hospitals and airport closures) and testing the Disaster Management Arrangements of all participants.

The Exercise engaged the three Disaster Districts of Innisfail, Cairns and Mareeba, and nine Local Government Areas of Torres Shire, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Cook Shire Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Cairns Regional Council, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

Both local government and district disaster management plans including evacuation arrangements were exercised. Various local governments participated in call centre exercising and practised the ability to increase capacity. Public messaging, warning systems, resource planning and strategies to manage longer-term recovery were all tested and well accepted.

The Exercise was praised for its realism and participants highlighted the need for further work around business continuity planning, consistent funding arrangements for recovery and agreed triggers for transitioning from response to recovery. It also highlighted the benefit of strong relationships and a flexible but structured approach to coordination and cooperation across all levels of the disaster management arrangements in Far North Queensland.

Exercise Mercury 10

Planning commenced in early 2010 for Mercury 10, a Multi Jurisdictional CT Exercise (MJEX) being conducted throughout Australia later this year. This year Queensland's role is at the strategic level. The aim of the Mercury series of exercises is to practise the national counter terrorism arrangements.



STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENTS

Disaster Management Review

The Department of Community Safety commissioned an independent review of the appropriateness of the Disaster Management Act 2003, policies, guidelines and plans, as well as management and accountability issues relating to the State Emergency Service.

The Review concluded that Queensland's disaster management system is soundly based and affirmed that local government should remain the cornerstone of our disaster management system, supported by district and state level disaster management groups.

The Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 implements those recommendations of the Review that required legislative amendment.

The Bill establishes guiding principles for effective disaster management. It includes the requirement for disaster management planning to occur across all four phases of disaster management: prevention; preparation; response; and recovery. It also includes the principle that all events, whether natural or human caused, should be managed using the State's disaster management framework, including the State Disaster Management Plan and any disaster management guidelines prepared by the chief executive, DCS, under the Act.

The Bill contains a number of amendments to the roles in disaster management groups. These amendments implement the key recommendation from the review report that Queensland Police Service take on an increased operational role with Emergency Management Queensland to focus on ensuring there is an effective disaster management framework in place.

A copy of the Review can be found at: http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/publications/pdf/Consultants DM Report FINAL.pdf

CAVDISPLAN Review

The Attorney-Generals Department Emergency Management Australia conducted a full review of the Commonwealth Government Aviation Disaster Response Plan (CAVDISPLAN). As a member of the Australian Emergency Management Committee, Queensland has a key role in ensuring that the revised plan meets the State requirements. CAVDISPLAN provides the framework for addressing Australian Government support to Queensland's needs arising from aviation disasters which cannot be met from within their existing resources.

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC)

The QEOC will enable the SDCC to provide a state-of-the-art, scalable solution to meet both day-to-day needs and address larger scale issues if and when they arise. Construction of the QEOC has continued and transition planning for the relocation of the SDCC is well advanced.

A series of training sessions will be conducted in order to validate operational competencies for all staff in the QEOC. It is anticipated that the SDCC will relocate to the QEOC late in the year.



Workshop Contribution

Disaster Operations staff actively participated in the following workshops:

- Disaster Management Review
- Emergency Virtual Operations Centre
- Evacuation Framework
- Local Government Disaster Management Conference
- Tsunami Warning Workshop
- Use of Social Media

Committee Contribution

Disaster Operations staff were also actively involved in supporting the following committees:

- Combined Communications and Coordination Reference Group
- Emergency Management Committee
- Interdepartmental Committee on Bushfires
- Queensland Emergency Operations Centre Project Control Group
- Queensland Flood Consultative Committee
- Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee
- Queensland National Plan State (Oil Spill) Committee
- Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee
- Senior Executive Management Team
- State Community Recovery Committee
- State Community Recovery Committee Training Sub-Committee
- State Disaster Coordination Group
- State Disaster Coordination Group Working Group
- State Disaster Management Group
- Victoria Bushfires Royal Commission Working Party

Official Visits

Disaster Operations hosted official tours of the State Disaster Coordination Centre and gave presentations to the following agencies.

- Emergency Management delegation from Japan
- National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA), Abu Dhabi
- Redland City Council
- High Commissioner for Kenya and party