

The 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review

Terms of Reference for a review of key preparedness and response elements of the bushfires and hot weather events across Queensland

Purpose

Section 16 C of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* provides the Inspector-General Emergency Management with functions including:

- to regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the State disaster management plan and its implementation;
- to review, assess and report on performance by entities responsible for disaster management in the State against the disaster management standards;
- to report to, and advise, the Minister about issues relating to the functions above
- to make all necessary inquiries to fulfil the functions above.

In accordance with these functions, the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management will assess the effectiveness of preparedness activity and response to the major bushfires that occurred from late November to early December, and to the associated heatwave by entities responsible for disaster management in Queensland.

Approach

The Review team will work closely with the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, local, state and federal agencies, and other relevant entities to differentiate between:

- those lessons that are agency-specific
- those that overlap with the disaster management system, and
- those that are specific to the disaster management system.

The Review team will concentrate on the latter two, informed by the first.

The Review will identify lessons that will inform continuous improvement in fire management and disaster management arrangements in Queensland. The scope of these lessons will be bound by the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland and other relevant doctrine.

In conducting the Review, the team will consider the views of community members via survey and submissions.

Reporting

The Review report will be based on relevant Shared Responsibilities of the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

The Review report will be provided to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Before finalising the Review report, the Review team will consult with relevant entities on draft findings and recommendations.