



Alistair Dawson appointed Inspector-General Emergency Management

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Craig Crawford MP has announced Alistair Dawson APM as Queensland's new Inspector-General Emergency Management.

Alistair brings over 40 years' policing experience from both London and Queensland to the new role as Inspector-General. More than 38 years of his extensive career in police and emergency management has been spent working in senior roles in the Queensland Police Service.

He started his Queensland Police Service career, as a general duties police officer in Brisbane in 1982 and went on to become one of the state's most senior police officers, serving as the Chief Superintendent at the G20 Group, Inspector for CHOQM, Police Commander for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

In 2013, he was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Operations Support Command, Assistant Commissioner for the Central Region in

2015 and Assistant Commissioner of the People Capability Command in 2018.

As a former Chair of the State Disaster Coordination Group, Alistair has played a key role in coordinating the whole of government response to several complex disaster events across the State including the 2010/11 floods, cyclones Tasha, Anthony and Yasi, and the 2013 Bundaberg floods.

Alistair is committed to working closely with the disaster management sector to ensure ongoing co-design, collaboration and cooperation between local, state, interstate and federal agencies, the research sector, NGOs and the community.

He has a keen passion for disaster management and working with our partners to drive continuous improvement in Queensland's disaster preparedness, planning, response and recovery arrangements.

A word from Alistair

Welcome to our first edition of IGEM Connect for 2020! It is very humbling to be officially appointed as Queensland's new Inspector-General Emergency Management.

I acknowledge the contribution of Iain Mackenzie, as Queensland's first Inspector-General Emergency Management who retired in July 2019. Iain contributed an incredible amount during his five years as Inspector-General by establishing the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, setting the initial strategic direction and undertaking several important reviews.

I also would like to pay tribute to the men and women of Queensland's emergency services who have selflessly served our community during the recent bushfires. Every day, officers and volunteers serve our community in so many ways, including dangerous situations, to ensure we live in a safer Queensland. It's been a privilege to serve alongside them over the past 38 years.

I am looking forward to continuing to build on the strong foundations of Queensland's disaster management arrangements, to work closely with all stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, planning, response and recovery.

There has never been a more crucial time for our sector and the important work we do. This Summer has been a difficult and testing time for us all. With 33 people tragically perishing in fires across the country, the severity of this bushfire season not only broke our collective hearts but captured the attention of the international community.

Those we lost, were rural fire volunteers, farmers, aerial firefighters, and residents. They were mums and dads, grandmothers and grandfathers, sons and daughters. There were people who stayed and defended their homes and communities, with some paying the ultimate sacrifice with their own lives. Australian Flags flew at half-mast across the country remembering the bushfire victims. We also witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of support from the Australian and international communities.

Tens of millions of dollars in donations we made to public appeals from Australians and the International community including celebrities. More than one billion animals have been reportedly lost in the bushfires and over 6.7 million hectares burnt, in NSW and Victoria, with a further 6.6 million hectares of land.

In recent weeks, the Victorian, New South Wales (NSW) and South Australian (SA) Governments have announced inquiries into the 2019/20 bushfire season. The Victorian Government announced an independent inquiry to be undertaken by the Victorian Inspector-General Emergency Management. The NSW Government has announced former NSW Police Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens and former NSW Chief Scientist Mary O'Kane will head an inquiry. The SA Government also announced an independent review of the 2019/20 bushfire season focusing on the Kangaroo Island and Cuddle Creek bushfires. IGEM is currently finalising its own review into the September 2019 bushfire events in Queensland. The Office will monitor the outcomes from the Victorian, SA and NSW inquiries, and proposed terms of reference for a Royal Commission and COAG Meeting in March.

But it certainly doesn't stop at bushfires for our sector. The wet season has also recommenced with heavy falls experienced across Queensland. The arrival of the rain is a timely reminder that we are one year on from the Monsoon Trough event that devastated much of North Queensland last year. We must remain focused on whatever Mother Nature and more broadly, can throw our way.

The bushfires and the start of the wet season, on the back of the threat of Coronavirus have made for busy start to the year. I look forward to another productive year working with the sector to ensure Queensland has the best possible disaster management arrangements in place.

Alistair Dawson APM
Inspector-General Emergency Management



RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons pins bravery award on fallen firefighter Andrew O'Dwyer's son.
Source: NSW RFS via BBC News

Out and about with the sector

Congratulations to the team at Griffith University for the completion of their new \$56 million Engineering and Aviation building.

I was pleased to take a sneak peak through the facility last month with Associate Professor Cheryl Desha. This state-of-the-art facility has the capacity to ramp up for disaster response and recovery.



Champion for Change Award – nominations closing today

Do you know someone in the disaster management sector who actively champions change and demonstrates excellence? Nominate them now for IGEM's Champion of Change Award.

Nominations close COB today, 7 February.

You can apply online via: <https://www.igem.qld.gov.au/about-us/awards/igem-champion-of-change-award>

Call for EOIs: Disaster Management Research Forum

On 1 July, IGEM will host the inaugural Qld Disaster Management Research Forum at the Edge, State Library in South Brisbane. Get your Expression of Interest in now to showcase your research work in the disaster management sector.

Your EOI proposals can include:

- 15 min 'TED Talks'
- Vox Pops
- Posters or ESRI story maps

Submit your EOI by COB 14 February online via: <https://t.co/rB5HzigRjI>

2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey

It's almost that time again, for the Office's annual customer satisfaction survey.

The revised and streamlined survey, should only take 5-10 minutes to complete and provides important feedback on how the Office can continue to align our work to the growing and evolving needs of our valued stakeholders and the disaster management sector.

Please look out for an email in the next few weeks with a link to the survey being conducted by a market research company on behalf of the Office.

Let's get social!



Don't forget to stay tuned to all the latest news from IGEM via social media.

- Follow us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/IGEMQld
- Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/InspectorGeneralEmergencyManagement

Emergency Management Assurance Framework workshops

The IGEM team has busily been developing a suite of resources to support the application of the new Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) and Disaster Management Standard, which comes into effect July 1, 2020.

IGEM will be facilitating a series of state-wide workshops in the coming months to support the sector in adoption the new EMAF and Standard.

The office will be contacting representatives from the sector to explore suitable dates for these workshops to occur, in May and June of this year.

If you have specific dates in mind, please contact the Office of the IGEM to explore possibilities via:
IGEM.Info@igem.qld.gov.au