

K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review

Terms of Reference

Purpose

Section 16C of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* outlines the following functions for the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, including:

- to regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the State disaster management plan and its implementation;
- to regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by district groups and local groups, including district and local disaster management plans;
- to regularly review and assess cooperation between entities responsible for disaster management in the State, including whether the disaster management systems and procedures employed by those entities are compatible and consistent;
- to identify opportunities for cooperative partnerships to improve disaster management outcomes;
- 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, for the bushfire event on K'gari (Fraser Island) that occurred from October 2020, the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (the Office) will assess:

- (1) the effectiveness of preparedness activities; and
- (2) the response to the bushfire event

by entities responsible for the management of the island and bushfire and disaster management in Queensland (the Review). The Review should also have regard to the cultural and environmental significance of K'gari as reflected in relevant management plans, and its UNESCO World Heritage listing.

In conducting the Review, the Office will ensure good practice and any opportunities for improvement are highlighted in the report.

Approach

The Office will work closely with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Environment and Science including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Police Service, local, state and federal agencies, the Butchulla people, and other relevant stakeholders to obtain information necessary to the Review. The Review is to invite submissions from the community.

The Review should consider the 2018 and 2019 Queensland Bushfires Reviews and consolidate previous observations, insights and recommendations to ensure Queensland Government has the best advice on the capability necessary to effectively prevent and respond to bushfire activity in Queensland.

The Review should also consider any relevant findings and recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

In conducting the Review, consideration must be given to any impost on front line staff who are responding to the current bushfire season.

Reporting

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

The report will be provided by 31 March 2021 to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.

Before finalising the report, the Office will consult with relevant entities on the draft report, including observations, insights, findings and recommendations.

(Ends)