

IGEM | Connect

December 2021 | No. 26

Welcome to the latest edition of IGEM | Connect No. 26

Acknowledgement of Country

IGEM would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country.

We recognise their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Message from the IGEM

The end of the year is fast approaching, and with it brings time for reflection for the year that has been and our hopes for the year ahead. IGEM has seen a few changes this year, and we've had much to celebrate.

COVID-19 has tested us all with new variants, new ways of working and new challenges such as the nation-wide vaccination rollout. Stakeholders in our sector definitely stepped up to the challenge, helping to staff vaccination hubs right across the state. As I write this message, almost [85% of Queenslanders](#) have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Well done Queensland!

We are now facing the prospect of an ongoing COVID-19 response set against the backdrop of a potentially very wet summer. The Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Nina event, bringing increased change of heavy rainfall, flash flooding and tropical cyclone activity. It is vital that we maintain our vigilance. We have seen too many lives lost on our roads due to vehicles driving through flood waters. Remember, if it's flooded, forget it. Back up and find another route.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the whole disaster management sector this year. Many of you have been operational for almost two years. As I have travelled throughout the state, where and when COVID-19 has allowed, I have been impressed by the incredible work ethic and commitment of the disaster management staff in our local, district and state agencies.

On a personal level, I also want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the IGEM team. They say an agency is only as good as its people, and I believe the IGEM team are some of the best. I am truly grateful for their dedication and commitment to their work.



From the entire team here at IGEM, I send you our season's greetings. Stay safe, enjoy time with your loved ones and friends. We look forward to working closely again with you in 2022.

La Niña established in the tropical Pacific

The Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Niña has developed in the tropical Pacific, increasing the likelihood of more cyclones and heavy downpours this summer.

This La Niña is expected to be relatively weak and short-lived, but with many catchments already saturated following a wet winter and spring, its impacts could still be severe. BOM head of operational climate services Andrew Watkins said the La Niña was "likely to persist until at least January, possibly through the summer as a whole". BOM meteorologist Helen

Reid said Queenslanders had already felt the effects of La Niña conditions after Australia was placed on watch and alert in previous months.

It's vital that we are prepared for whatever Mother Nature might throw our way. We have already seen inclement weather and heavy rainfall impact Inglewood and Goondiwindi, as well as parts of New South Wales, we encourage all entities to review their disaster management plans to ensure currency.



COVID-19 vaccinations



As we write this edition of IGEM Connect, Queenslanders have almost reached 83% with two COVID-19 vaccine doses. New requirements to show our vaccination status will also commence from 17 December at a number of venues.

It's vital we all work together during this time to ensure a smooth transition for Queenslanders to the new venue requirements. We are all in this together!

Booster vaccinations are now available to people who received their second vaccination five months ago. Please [click here](#) to book your booster shot.

Queensland Recovery Plan

The [Queensland Recovery Plan](#) has been updated and is now available online. The plan was reviewed following recent disaster events and its publication will help meet a number of IGEN review recommendations from the [2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review](#) and the [2018 Recovery Governance Review](#).

The plan outlines recovery requirements for operations, planning and arrangements at the local, district and state level. It drives a collaborative and coordinated approach across all functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community and ensures recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

The plan describes the arrangements for transition from response to recovery - highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and the State Recovery Coordinator and the functional recovery groups - to assist disaster impacted communities achieve optimum recovery outcomes.



Emergency Resilience in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

Red Cross has recently released their [Emergency Resilience in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities](#), focusing on the challenges and opportunities that exist. The report's findings are derived from a comprehensive review of international and Australian research, insights from multicultural respondents, consultation with stakeholders in the emergency management and migration support sectors, and lessons learned during Red Cross community engagement.

While the specific circumstances of CALD communities can create heightened vulnerability to disasters' impact, this research found that many migrants and refugees display high levels of resilience, knowledge and coping capacities – often as a result of having overcome the significant challenges of migration and settlement in a new country. This suggests that emergency management and community engagement strategies that focus on existing strengths can be more effective at generating resilience than approaches centred on vulnerability.

The report details how emergency services and response agencies can better tailor and deliver their services to these communities during a disaster event.



Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

The [Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund](#) (QDRF) was announced in 2018 to support projects to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities and help them better prepare for disasters.



National Hazards Research Australia

IGEM welcomes the team from [National Hazards Research Australia](#) (NHRA) who have hit the ground running across the country.

NHRA is in its establishment phase and is working closely with the Australian Government to develop a new strategic partnerships and a research agenda for Australia along with its partners at CSIRO, AFAC, state-based

Queensland Government has announced critical disaster assistance for primary producers in Central, Southern and Western Queensland impacted by the recent floods.

emergency service agencies, universities and industry partners.

Resilient Australia Award winners - Queensland

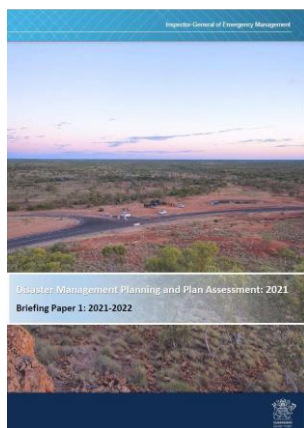


Mackay Regional Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council were joint winners in the local government category at Queensland's Resilient Australia Awards on 6 October 2021



Happy Valley Rural Fire Brigade and Happy Valley Community Association won a 2021 Resilient Australia Award for Queensland on 6 October 2021

2021 Disaster Management Plan Assessment



IGEM is proud to announce this year's disaster management plan assessment process with almost an 100% response rate. Overall, considerable improvements to disaster management plans and good practice examples were showcased this year. This highlights the importance of the annual review process, collaborative planning, and the need for continuous improvement.

The Disaster Management Planning and Plan Assessment 2021 briefing paper has been distributed to local and district disaster management groups and relevant state agencies. IGEM would like to thank each group, the Disaster Management Unit of the Queensland Police Service and council's Disaster Management Officers and Emergency Management Coordinators of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service for contributing to this year's process.

Thank you to Jeff Magnus from Mount Isa Police District for contributing this great photo taken by Senior Constable Carly Leask of a COVID-19 border checkpoint between Queensland and the Northern Territory.

IGEM 2022 International Women's Day awards

We are launching our 2022 International Women's Day Awards.

The awards have been established by IGEM to promote equality and diversity across the disaster management sector. The awards are open to staff and volunteers, both men and women, who actively champion change and demonstrate excellence.

The award categories for 2022 are:

- Champion of Change
- Excellence in Disaster Management
- Research and Engagement
- Culture of Learning



International
Women's Day

The awards will be announced during the IWD event on Tuesday 8 March 2022 by a committee from across the public safety and integrity agencies network.

Further information and nomination form can be found [here](#).

Upcoming conferences and events

AIDR and AFAC Lessons Management Forum | Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre | 22-23 March 2022

<https://www.aidr.org.au/resources/lessons-management-forum/>

Floodplain Management Conference Australia National Conference | Empire Theatre, Toowoomba | 17-20 May 2022

<https://floodplainconference.com/>

ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference | RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast | 26 July 2022

<https://anzdmc.com.au/>

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2022 | Adelaide Convention Centre | 24-26 August 2022

<https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/australian-disaster-resilience-conference/>

AFAC22 Conference | Adelaide Convention Centre | 23 - 26 August 2022

<https://www.afaconference.com.au/>

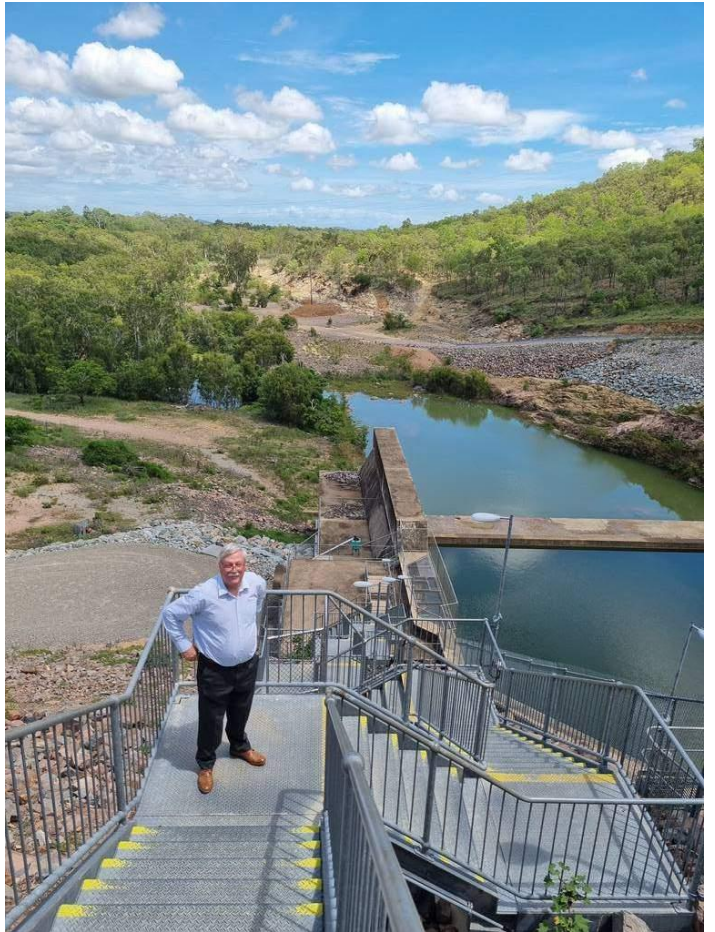
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction | Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre | 19-22 September 2022

<https://www.undrr.org/event/asia-pacific-ministerial-conference-disaster-risk-reduction-apmcdrr-2022>

Out and about with the IGEM



Meeting the team at the Cyclone Testing Facility at James Cook University
(L-R) Alistair Dawson, Dr David Henderson, Dr Anne Swinbourne, Ian Thompson (IGEM) and Patrick Driscoll | 8 December 2021



Making friends at the Ross River Dam | 8 December 2021



Flood Resilience Symposium at the Griffith University Disaster Management and Resilience Facility | 18-19 October 2021



Joining our colleagues from the Queensland Integrity Commission and Queensland Family and Child Commission for a Leading Women's Network Hub Event | 15 November 2021



LGAQ Conference | Mackay
25-27 October 2021



Pioneer River Levee bank extension within the Mackay Community Gardens in Sarah Street, West Mackay



IGEM spoke at HEAL2021 Conference about
key challenges in disaster management
18 November 2021



Closing panel for AFAC2021
7 October 2021



Firefighters Remembrance Day at St Brigid's Red Hill, Brisbane to honour those who have lost their lives protecting others
10 October 2021



National Police Remembrance Day Candlelight Vigil
28 September 2021



Development of a new partnership between Suncorp and Firesticks develop the new generation of cultural burning leaders across Queensland. Thank you to the Wakka Wakka people for the warm welcome to your land and for sharing your culture and knowledge with IGEN.

Coffee with IGEN

If you or your agency would like to schedule a coffee catch with the IGEN on all things disaster management related, please email igem.info@igem.qld.gov.au or call 07 3029 8813 to arrange.



**Season's Greetings to you and enjoy some time with your loved ones.
For those working over the break, take care and stay safe.**



Follow us on social media

Don't forget to follow IGEM on and Twitter, for all the latest news and information about Queensland's disaster management sector.



Contact Us

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