

REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding February-March 2022

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 South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding that occurred from 22 February to 7 March 2022, the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (the Office) will assess:

- 1) the effectiveness of preparedness activities undertaken by Queensland Government (including Government Owned Corporations and Statutory Bodies), relevant local government agencies, and other agencies engaged in response operations in all of the Local Government Areas activated for disaster recovery funding arrangements;
- 2) the timing and effectiveness of Emergency Alerts that were issued to the community of the flooding event, including:
 - a. interactions with the national Emergency Alert System, and any relevant local government issued warnings
 - b. the relative effectiveness of different operating systems between opt-in systems and automatic geographic notifications at a state/national and local government level;
- 3) the timing and effectiveness of other types of communication and information that was disseminated during the event, including information provided by local disaster management groups to elected representatives; and
- 4) the effectiveness of cooperation between all agencies for response operations at a local, state and national level

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

Approach

For the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding from 22 February to 7 March 2022, the Office's Review team will work closely with the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, local, State and federal agencies, and other relevant entities to assess:

- the preparation and planning by the Queensland Government and relevant local government agencies;

- the response to the weather event, including measures taken to:
 - inform the community;
 - protect life;
 - protect private and public property;
 - manage the supply of essential services;
 - manage dam operations, in particular for the Wivenhoe Dam, and associated emergency procedures, including consideration of the **flood event reports** prepared by referable dam owners as required by the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and provided to the Dam Safety Regulator of Queensland;
 - resourcing, overall coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment; and
 - other related matters the Inspector-General Emergency Management considers relevant.

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

In conducting the Review, the Office will consider the views of community members, relevant agencies and operational staff, and also be informed by any relevant expert advice.

In conducting the Review, the Office will also have regard to other relevant reviews that have been conducted, or which may have been announced or commenced which are relevant to this review, including for example: reviews by other governments, coronial inquiries/reviews, commissions of inquiry, etc.

Report

In providing its report, IGEM can consider whether to provide an interim report into any of the individual matters raised above, including for example, the Emergency Alerts that were issued in relation to this event prior to the final report. Any interim report is to be provided to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services by 30 June 2022.

The final Review Report, including executive summary, is to be provided to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services by 31 August 2022.