

**Inspector-General of Emergency Management Review of
Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) Report 2: 2022-2023**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

On 14 December 2022, the Government requested the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) review Queensland’s disaster management arrangements and propose any necessary legislative reforms and updates to the State Disaster Management Plan. The request for the review followed the release of the Government’s response to the *Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Report* by KPMG.

The IGEM delivered the *Review of Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA)* on 28 April 2023. The Queensland Government accepts in principle all 10 recommendations as per the table below. The Government is committed to enhancing Queensland’s capacity and capability to respond to disasters. The Reform Implementation Taskforce (RIT) has been tasked with considering the recommendations in detail and will work with relevant agencies to develop an implementation plan for reform activities consistent with the larger Police and Emergency Services Reform Program.

No.	Recommendation	Government Position
1	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following changes to Queensland’s Disaster Management legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service be appointed as the Chief Executive of the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i>. b. That the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> be amended to reflect the new role and function of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee. c. That a State Disaster Management Group is established within the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i>. d. That the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> be amended to establish the position, role and functions of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator. 	Accept in principle
2	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following changes to Queensland’s Disaster Management structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the State Disaster Coordination Group revert to a single Chair arrangement (chaired by a Senior Queensland Police Officer), focused on response and the aspect of preparedness for, and resilience in, response. The Terms of Reference should be amended to incorporate this and other changes to its role and functions. 	Accept in principle

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. That a State Recovery and Resilience Group be established and embedded in the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements alongside the State Disaster Coordination Group, to focus on disaster management functions outside of response. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority should lead the establishment of the State Recovery and Resilience Group, develop the Terms of Reference and chair the group. c. That, to support the State Recovery and Resilience Group, the Functional Recovery Groups expand their remit to incorporate resilience and be renamed Functional Recovery and Resilience Groups. d. That clear lines of reporting be established between any appointed State Recovery Coordinator and the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator. e. That an Emergency Relief Subcommittee of the State Disaster Coordination Group and the State Recovery and Resilience Group be established to reflect a strong partnership arrangement to address all aspects of Emergency Relief. The roles of Chair and Deputy Chair are to be determined via consultation between the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. f. That the final composition of the Emergency Relief subcommittee’s inner and outer core membership be a joint responsibility of the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, in consultation with the State Disaster Coordinator and the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator. g. That the Queensland Reconstruction Authority leads state-level hazard and risk functions, including the design and delivery of a risk assessment tool that is locally appropriate, cost-effective and fit for purpose. 	
3	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following changes to Queensland’s disaster management plans and guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That there should be one State Disaster Management Plan that succinctly describes all of Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements, supported by separate sub-plans across the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery comprehensive model, including Resilience, mirroring the new governance structure. The State Disaster Management Plan should be reviewed biannually and/or following debriefs from significant disaster operations where relevant. b. That the term ‘Emergency Supply’ be changed to ‘Emergency Relief’ in the State Disaster Management Plan. 	Accept in principle

No.	Recommendation	Government Position
	c. That the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning develop an Emergency Relief strategy.	
4	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following changes to the ways that Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements support cross-border collaboration:</p> <p>a. That documents and plans that support the operationalisation of Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements is updated to encourage and enable cross-border disaster management engagement and relationships at officer-level, council to council, and district to district.</p> <p>b. That all Local and District Disaster Management Groups who share a border or borders with other states or Territories conduct collaborative disaster management planning and exercising.</p>	Accept in principle
5	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following changes to the ways that ‘resilience’ is reflected in Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements:</p> <p>a. That the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> be amended to include a definition of ‘resilience’ that reflects the Queensland Government’s endorsed definition within the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, clarifying that Resilience functions incorporate activities related to the phases of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.</p>	Accept in principle
6	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following change to the way that Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements are supported through Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements:</p> <p>a. That the Queensland Reconstruction Authority be Queensland’s lead agency coordinating Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Ministerial responsibility for activation of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements should transfer from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, to the Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.</p>	Accept in principle
7	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following action linked to disaster management preparedness messaging:</p> <p>a. That the Queensland Reconstruction Authority ‘Get Ready Queensland’ brand expands to include bushfire awareness campaigns and ‘If It’s Flooded Forget It’.</p>	Accepts in principle
8	The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following actions linked to Disaster Management sector capability and accreditation:	Accepts in principle

No.	Recommendation	Government Position
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That all training associated with the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework should, wherever possible, identify and utilise pathways to achieve nationally recognised qualifications. b. That the Queensland Police Service undertake a capability assessment of the State Emergency Service, Marine Rescue Queensland, and the broader disaster management sector, for the present and future. This should include a review of the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework. 	
9	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following actions to support a seamless transition of Disaster Management responsibilities from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to the Queensland Police Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the roles and Terms of Reference of all current state and national disaster management committees that are non-hazard specific, and that reflect state disaster management arrangements and policy, be tabled at the Reform Implementation Taskforce for discussion and consideration of future representation. b. That the Reform Implementation Taskforce seeks clarity on all Memoranda of Understanding and agreements that are currently in scope as a result of the proposed Machinery of Government changes. c. That any open Queensland Fire and Emergency Services recommendations made by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, that are not hazard specific, transition to the Queensland Police Service at a time to be identified by the Reform Implementation Taskforce. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services should continue to progress implementation of recommendations, in consultation with the Queensland Police Service, until Machinery of Government changes are implemented. d. That the Reform Implementation Taskforce determines the most appropriate agency to manage the ongoing whole-of-government coordination of implementation and reporting on the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. Until this time, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services should continue to progress implementation of recommendations, in consultation with the Reform Implementation Taskforce. 	Accept in principle
10	<p>The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends the following actions linked to the effective implementation and evaluation of the changes to Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements accepted from this Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That, in the 2027/28 financial year, the Inspector-General of Emergency Management partner with the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Reconstruction Authority to review the implementation of the Machinery of Government changes, and revised Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements. 	Accept in principle

No.	Recommendation	Government Position
	<p>b. That, for the recommendations arising from this review, the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management is involved in consultation prior to the finalisation of the government action plan, to align intended actions with the intent of the recommendations.</p> <p>c. That this Review report be returned to the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management to monitor, evaluate and report on progress and implementation of the recommendations that are accepted in whole or in part by government.</p>	