

IGEM CONNECT

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management
April 2024 Edition



Acknowledgment of Country

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (Office of the 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 IGEM

Welcome to the first edition of IGEM Connect for 2024.

It has been a challenging time for many of us in the disaster management sector, with 10 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement activations for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The relentless severe weather season has shown us, once again, the incredible work ethic and stamina of our frontline responders and those helping with the long recovery process. I tip my hat to all involved, including in relation to the Northwest floods, Western Downs fires, Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily, Southeast Queensland storms, and the recent flooding in Charleville. I would also like to acknowledge those who served their community when they too were impacted by these weather events. It's a heroic effort.

My travels with the Community Cabinet have taken me to Cairns, Rockhampton, and Mackay. Meeting with stakeholders and community members is a fantastic way to connect and gain valuable insights into the needs of Queenslanders and the disaster management sector.

Since the last edition, my office has submitted a comprehensive review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) to the Queensland Government. This review and the subsequent reforms will further enhance our ability to assist all Queenslanders during times of crisis. The emphasis on locally led, regionally coordinated, state-facilitated, and Commonwealth supported partnerships remains crucial in strengthening Queensland's disaster management landscape. I commend the Reform Implementation Team for their dedicated efforts in this important work.

Looking ahead, I am excited about upcoming opportunities to connect with you, including at the upcoming [2024 Lessons Management Forum](#) in Adelaide.

Thank you for your continued support this year as we collectively strive to make Queensland a safer and more resilient place for everyone.

Alistair.

2023-24 Severe Weather Season Review: Terms of Reference

The Office of the IGEM will conduct a review of the significant weather events, relating to the 2023-24 Severe Weather Season.

The review will include the severe storms, tropical cyclones, tropical lows, flooding and bushfires and will also include any other significant weather events that occur prior to the conclusion of the severe weather season.

The review will identify enhancements to inform and ensure continuous improvement in Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

The Office of the IGEM invites you to provide a submission if you, or those you know, have been involved with or impacted by a significant weather event during Queensland's 2023-24 Severe Weather Season.

The submissions process is open to individuals, departments, organisations, and community groups. We encourage you to share your stories and provide any information that may be relevant to the review.

Click [here](#) to read the Terms of Reference. Submissions will open soon.

If you need assistance or for more information, please contact submissions2023-2024@igem.qld.gov.au.

Meet our new directors

We recently recruited two new directors at Office of the IGEM. Here's a little about them:

Kate Retzki Director, Research and Communications

Kate has joined us from Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) where she previously was the Manager for Get Ready Queensland.

Kate Retzki is a communications and engagement specialist, with international experience in research-based citizen science and behaviour change programs. Kate has worked across infrastructure, public health, biosecurity, and Queensland's disaster management sector.

As Director, Communications and Research at the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, Kate is now helping to strengthen and connect the disaster management sector, with an emphasis on evidence-based decision making and collaboration.

If you would like to organise a meeting with Kate, send an email to research@igem.qld.gov.au.

Jo Beadle Director, Disaster Management

From the depths of the ocean to the heart of Queensland's Disaster Management Agreement, Jo's career has been nothing short of an adventure. With decades of service in the Royal Australian Navy, specialising in hydrography and disaster relief, Jo contributed to the recovery efforts following the 2010 Queensland Floods and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi. At the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Jo helped deliver the state's first Strategy for Disaster Resilience in 2014.

After a successful stint with GIVIT as a National Manager, Jo now joins the Office of the IGEM as Director, Disaster Management, helping to build confidence in Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

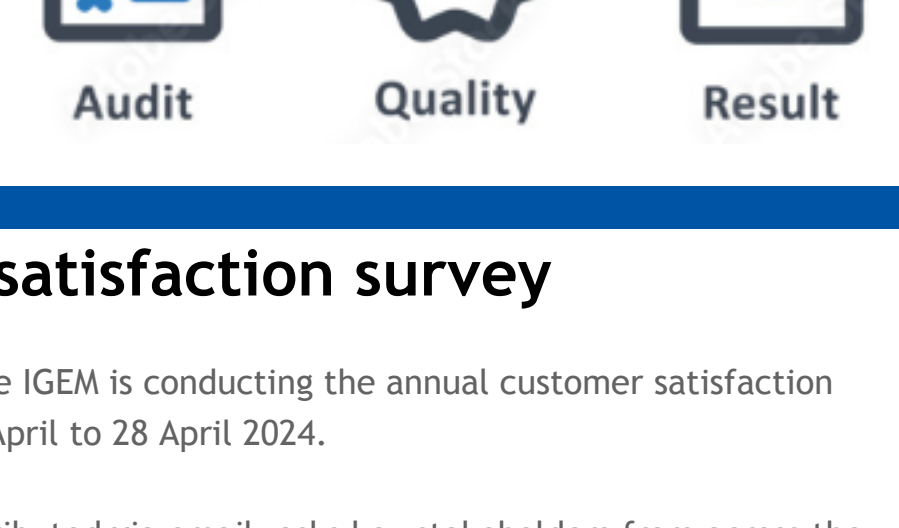
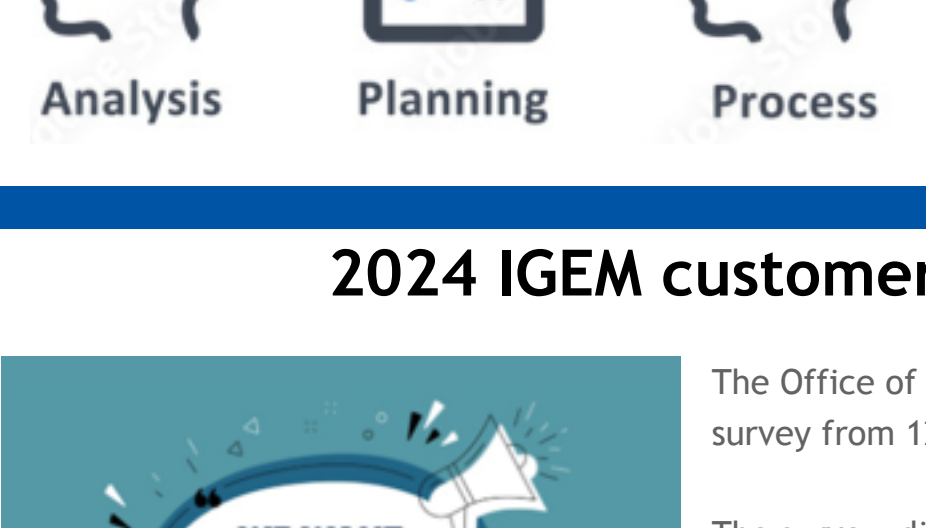
If you would like to organise a meeting with Jo, send an email to jo.beadle@igem.qld.gov.au

2024 Local government elections

The Office of the IGEM would like to congratulate all new and re-elected members of Council. We acknowledge the key role that local governments play in disaster management. Your leadership will support your community in developing further disaster resilience.

If at any time you like to speak with the IGEM, he would be delighted to chat. Contact the office by email at info@igem.qld.gov.au or call on (07) 3029 8813.

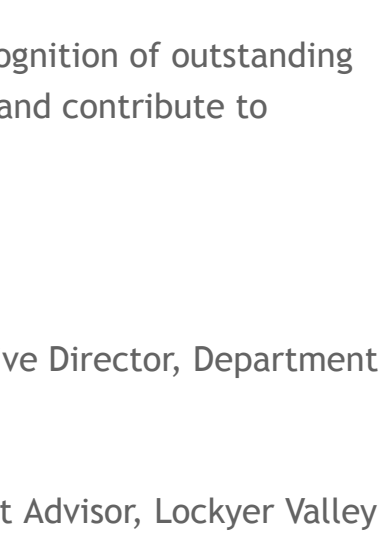
We would also like to warmly thank retiring and outgoing members for their contributions to the communities they served and their commitment to the disaster management arrangements.



Disaster Management Standard: accountabilities

How familiar are you with the Disaster Management (DM) Standard in Queensland?

In this edition of IGEM Connect, we're highlighting the Standard's five key accountabilities that entities must establish to achieve specific outcomes. These accountabilities offer a structured approach to delivering outcomes as defined in the Standard.



The five accountabilities are:

- 1. Governance:** Entities should manage their disaster responsibilities through clear decision-making, role identification, and outcome monitoring.
- 2. Doctrine:** Disaster management is guided by relevant doctrine, encompassing strategies and principles that ensure compliance with legislation.
- 3. People:** Success in disaster management depends on relationships, networks, and training. Entities should focus on network building and skill development.
- 4. Enablers:** Resources such as equipment, systems, data, and technologies are crucial for disaster management. These resources should be fit for purpose and accessible.
- 5. Continuous Improvement:** Entities should constantly monitor and improve their disaster management activities, driven by lessons learned, training methodologies, and insights from testing drive improvements.

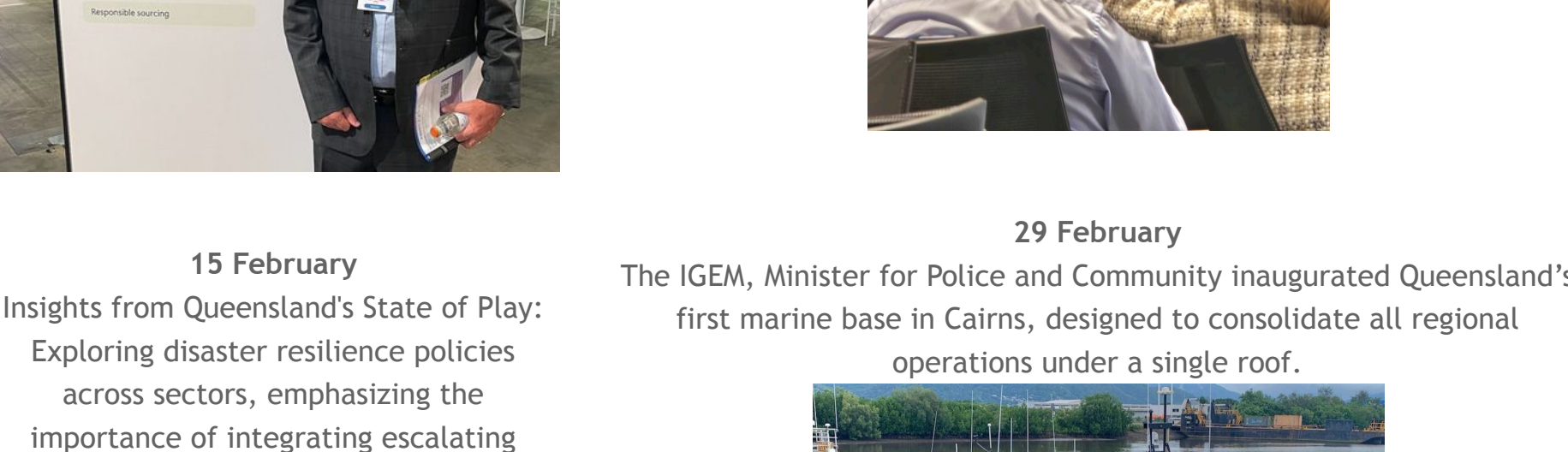
Want to learn more? Click [here](#) to read the detailed accountabilities overview fact sheet.

2023 Disaster management plan assessments

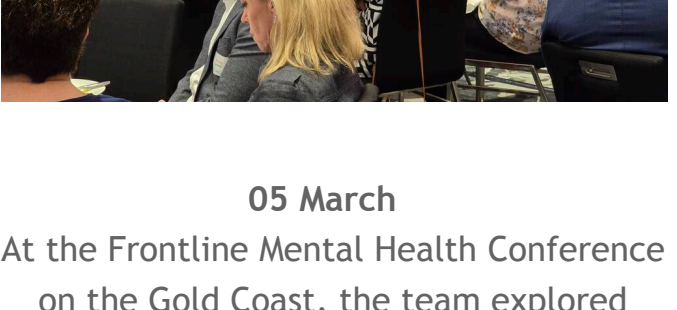
The Disaster Management Plan Assessment 2023 briefing paper was completed in March 2024. This is thanks to the dedication of local and district stakeholders to continuously improve and enhance their disaster management plans.

The insights from the assessment have led to substantial improvements, emphasising the importance of the yearly review, collaborative planning, and ongoing improvement. The briefing paper has been shared with local disaster management groups and relevant state government agencies to assist in future planning across the state.

To help improve disaster management strategies further, work on the Disaster Management Plan Assessment 2024 process is already underway. For further information about the process, please contact Jo Beadle, Director, Disaster Management, via email at Jo.Beadle@igem.qld.gov.au or phone at 07 3029 8809.



2024 IGEM customer satisfaction survey



The Office of the IGEM is conducting the annual customer satisfaction survey from 12 April to 28 April 2024.

The survey, distributed via email, asks key stakeholders from across the sector to assess their satisfaction relating to the services and advice provided by the Office of the IGEM over the past 12 months.

Conducted under the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld), all responses will remain confidential and anonymous. The survey will provide the Office of the IGEM with insight into meeting its strategic objectives while enhancing customer service. Thank you so much to participants who received and completed the survey. Your contribution is valued.

2024 IGEM International Women's Day Awards

The IGEM was delighted to announce the 2024 IGEM International Women's Day Awards in recognition of outstanding individuals who consistently advocate for change, promote workplace equality and diversity, and contribute to significant advancements in the disaster management sector.

This year we had three category award winners:

For Excellence in Disaster Management - Champion of Change: Rowena Richardson, Executive Director, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works.

For Excellence in Disaster Management - Practitioner: Michelle Kocsis, Disaster Management Advisor, Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

For Excellence in Disaster Management - Research: Hannah Mason, Research Officer, James Cook University.

We applaud our award winners and nominees for their exceptional contribution to the disaster management sector and we appreciate their colleagues who took the time to nominate them. Click [here](#) to read more about each nomination category.

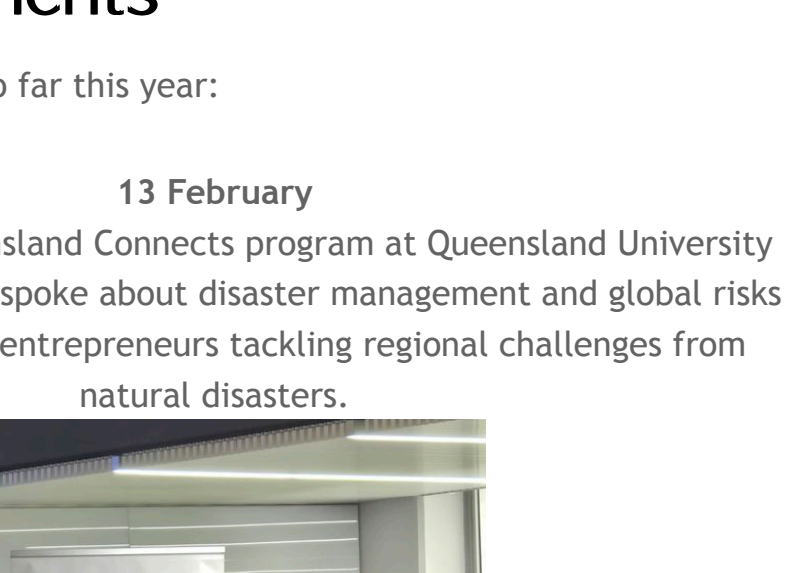
Research

The first Research Advisory Panel (RAP) meeting of 2024, chaired by the IGEM, was a resounding success with a significant turnout both online and in-person.

The belief was reinforced that collaboration and mutual learning can lead to improved outcomes for Queenslanders.

The meeting covered a range of topics including updates from various research alliances and networks, a presentation on AI Disaster Management Scholarship, and discussions on the 2024 Disaster Management Research Forum and environmental scan.

The next RAP meeting will be held in June. If you would like to be a part of the panel, send the team an email: research@igem.qld.gov.au.



IGEM engagements

Here is a snippet of our travels so far this year:

07 February

At a Microsoft AI facility in Sydney, Alistair had discussions about all thing's artificial intelligence.



13 February

At the Advance Queensland Connects program at Queensland University of Technology, Alistair spoke about disaster management and global risks offering insights for entrepreneurs tackling regional challenges from natural disasters.



15 February

Insights from Queensland's State of Play: Exploring disaster resilience policies across sectors, emphasizing the importance of integrating escalating disaster risks into policy and planning.



29 February

The IGEM, Minister for Police and Community inaugurated Queensland's first marine base in Cairns, designed to consolidate all regional operations under a single roof.



05 March

At the Frontline Mental Health Conference on the Gold Coast, the team explored strategies to enhance psychological outcomes for disaster management practitioners and their families.



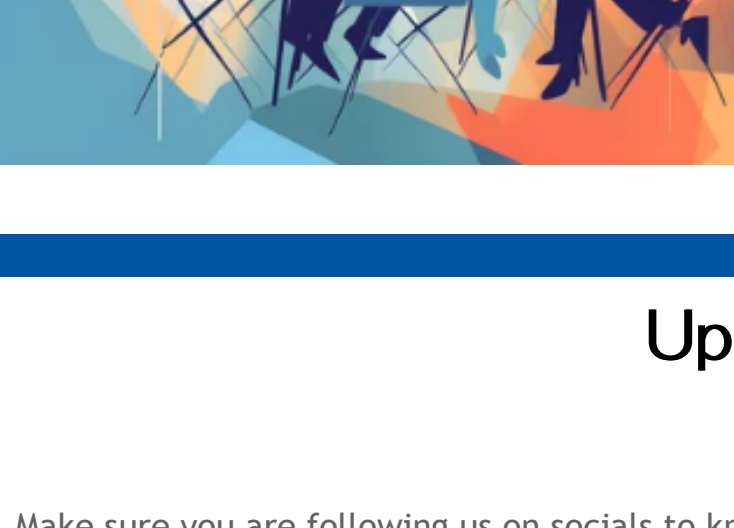
18 March

During a quick trip to Rockhampton to visit the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, it was evident to the IGEM how fortunate Queensland is to have dedicated volunteers helping their fellow Queenslanders in times of need.



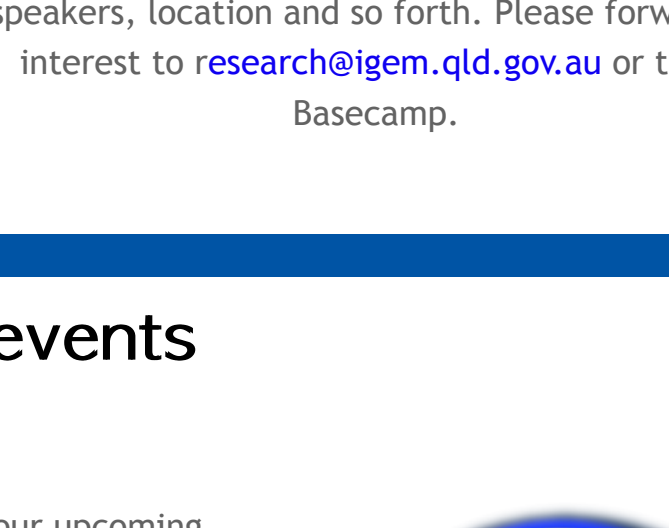
20 March

As a guest lecturer at QUT's School of Political Science and International Studies, the IGEM shared insights into the 'the journey of planning', exploring themes of preparedness and contingency.'

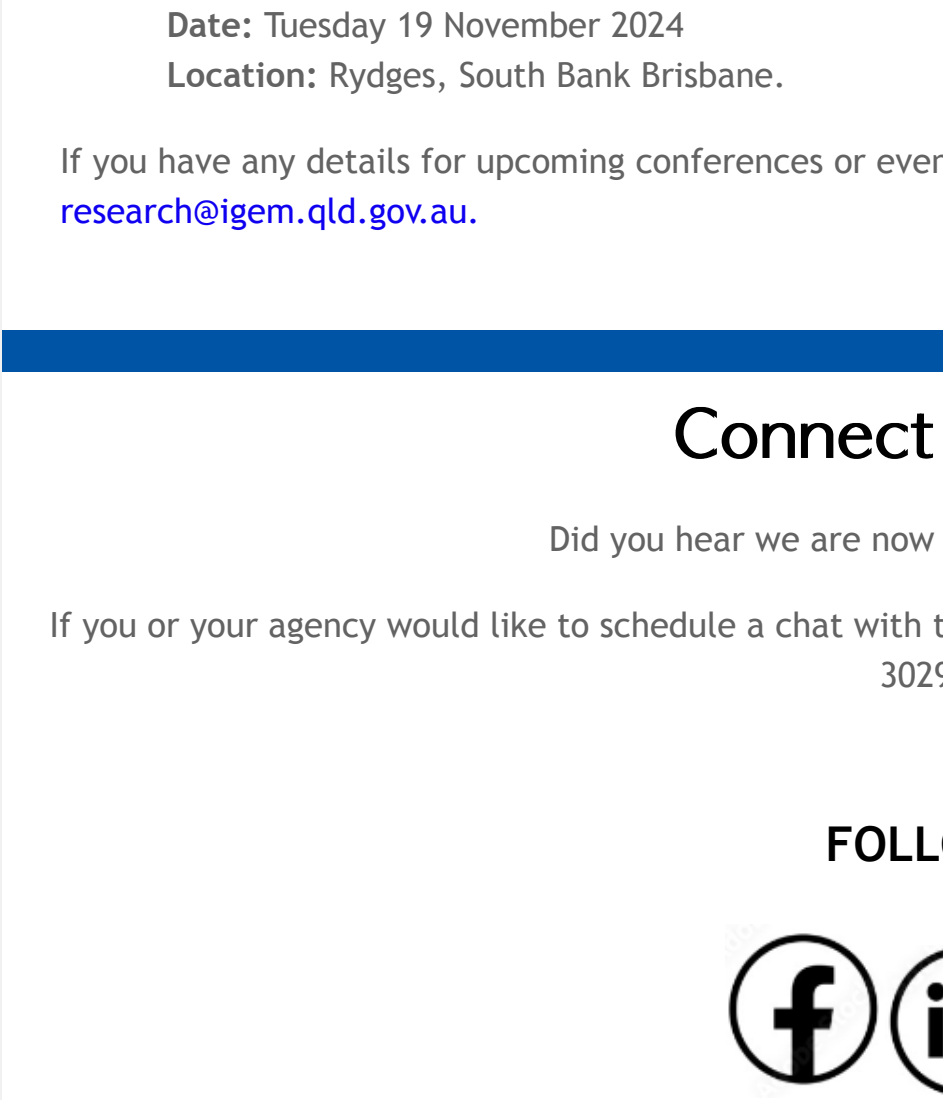


25 March

The IGEM met with Dr. Dickinson Tevu, Secretary General of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, and Collin Sivalingum, Australian Red Cross State Manager Emergency Services Qld, to exchange insights on disaster response and recovery.



Disaster Management Officers Network Day working group



We're calling for nominations to be on the 2024 Disaster Management Officers Network Day working group. The coordination of this event will be primarily communicated through Basecamp.

The DMO Conference working group, with support from the IGEM team, will be responsible for the coordination of this event, including the program, speakers, location and so forth. Please forward your interest to research@igem.qld.gov.au or through Basecamp.

Upcoming events

Make sure you are following us on socials to know more about our upcoming IGEM events:

- Disaster Management Officer's Network Day
Date: Wednesday 23 July 2024
Location: RACV, Royal Pines Resort Gold Coast.
- IGEM 10 Year Anniversary
Date: July 2024
- Disaster Management Research Forum
Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024
Location: Rydges, South Bank Brisbane.

If you have any details for upcoming conferences or events you would like to share, please email research@igem.qld.gov.au.



Connect with IGEM

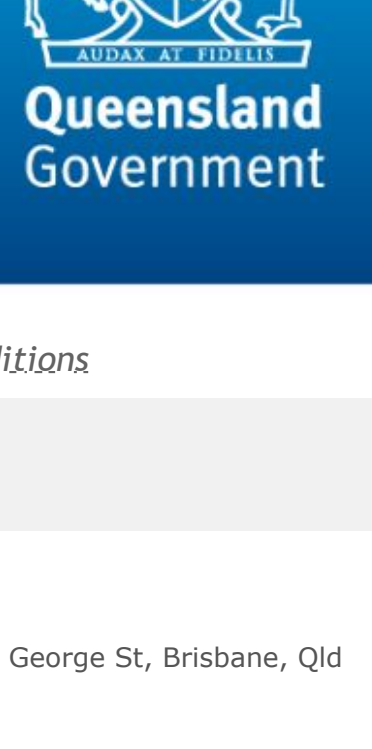
Did you hear we are now on [LinkedIn](#)? Follow us now!

If you or your agency would like to schedule a chat with the IGEM, please email igem.info@igem.qld.gov.au or call 07 3029 8813.

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