



The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management would like to respectfully acknowledge First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Queensland.

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

A message from the Inspector-General

Welcome to the latest edition of Research Connect.

As Queensland moves through the 2025-26 season, we are once again reminded of the dynamic and often challenging environment in which our communities prepare and respond to hazards. This year has already brought significant impacts across the state, with the severe weather season testing the resilience of communities and the disaster management sector. Throughout these events, we have seen the remarkable dedication, professionalism, and commitment of our frontline responders and all those supporting complex recovery efforts. Your work continues to make a profound difference, and it does not go unnoticed.



In this edition of Research Connect, we bring together fresh insights from across Queensland's research and disaster management sectors — thank you to all who have contributed once again.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who nominated for the 2026 IGEM International Women's Day Awards. The awards recognise outstanding women and allies who champion equality, inclusion, and excellence across Queensland's disaster management sector, and I look forward to announcing the winners and celebrating their achievements in March.

Thank you for being part of Queensland's disaster research community and for your ongoing commitment to strengthening the future of our state and keeping our communities safe.

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Save the date: 2026 Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum

The sixth annual Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum will be held on Tuesday **10 November 2026** at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Delivered as part of the Queensland Disaster Management Research Framework (DMRF), the

forum supports collaboration and knowledge sharing between tertiary and disaster management sectors.

Planning is underway for the 2026 event. If you would like to join the working group, please email your expression of interest to research@igem.qld.gov.au. Nominations will close on Friday 6 March 2026.

Email research@igem.qld.gov.au

New Research Connect case study

Advancing accessible emergency communication: Co-designing digital solutions for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities in Queensland

A new case study by Pallav Pant from Griffith University takes a deep dive into how co-design can transform the accessibility of emergency communication for Queenslanders. Working closely with community members, Pallav explored the barriers people face when accessing critical information during disasters and identified practical digital solutions that better support diverse needs.

The study highlights the importance of inclusive design, lived-experience insights and collaboration between researchers, practitioners and the community to ensure no one is left behind in an emergency.

Read more

Queensland Procurement Policy

Do you work with government, apply for grants, partner with industry or deliver research services?

Effective 1 January 2026, the [Queensland Procurement Policy 2026](#) (QPP 2026) became the Queensland Government's new overarching policy for procuring goods and services. This update is particularly relevant for our research and innovation community because the policy places a stronger emphasis on collaboration, social value, and forward-looking solutions which creates new pathways for researchers and suppliers to partner with government.

QPP 2026 outlines a bold vision for delivering positive procurement outcomes that contribute to a strong, sustainable future for Queensland. It is built around five strategic pillars, which reflect the Government's values, priorities, and long-term aspirations.

To maximise opportunities under the new policy, suppliers, including researchers, should:

- [Register](#) to receive procurement-related news and updates on the QPP 2026 implementation
- Stay informed about upcoming opportunities through the enhanced [forward procurement pipeline](#).

Create your profile on the supplier portal and discover relevant opportunities.

Visit the supplier portal



Natural Hazards Research Australia update

This summer's extreme heat has touched nearly every corner of the country, including Queensland. Australians in several states have sweltered through temperatures reaching [50 degrees Celsius at their worst](#). It is not new for Australian summers to be hot, but heatwaves are increasing in frequency and intensity. As our planet continues to warm, we can expect more heatwaves.

More than a decade ago, research funded by [Natural Hazards Research Australia](#) (the Centre) was the first to determine that heatwaves were the deadliest form of natural hazard in Australia. In fact, fatalities attributed to heatwaves were found to be greater than deaths from all other natural hazards combined ([Coates et al., 2014](#)).

Centre CEO Andrew Gissing wrote an [article for the NHRA website](#) about the impacts of heatwaves, how the [Centre-funded research](#) will add to this knowledge, and what people and communities can do to prepare for the impacts of these natural hazards.

Along with heatwaves, the Centre-funded research covers a broad range of natural hazards that impact Queensland, including tropical cyclones, supercells and storms. In a webinar the [Centre hosted in December](#), researchers and end-users from the [structural and inundation impacts of tropical cyclones](#) and [modelling impacts of natural hazards on interconnected infrastructure networks](#) projects explored what recent severe weather events reveal about infrastructure resilience, emergency response and community preparedness. The panel included experts from [James Cook University](#) (JCU), the [University of Queensland](#) (UQ) and the [Queensland Fire Department](#) (QFD).

More information and a link to watch a replay of the webinar is [available on NHRA's website](#).

Watch the webinar

Queensland University of Technology Navigating Uncertainty: From Reliance to Resilience

Disasters are no longer rare interruptions; they are recurring realities across Southeast Queensland. Against this backdrop, the [Queensland University of Technology](#) (QUT) recently welcomed stakeholders from across the resilience and research sectors to its Gardens Point campus for Navigating Uncertainty: From Reliance to Resilience, a panel discussion co-hosted by



the QUT's [Centre for Environment and Society](#) and [Centre for Justice](#).

The event explored how communities, governments and individuals can shift from reactive reliance to proactive resilience in the face of increasingly frequent and unpredictable disasters. Drawing on Southeast Queensland's recent experiences with floods and a cyclone, the panel examined evolving roles and responsibilities across disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The discussion was MCed by Professor Amisha Mehta (Lead, Resilient Communities and Infrastructure Theme, QUT [Centre for Environment and Society](#)) and moderated by Professor Vivienne Tippett (Chair, [Queensland Disaster Research Alliance](#)). Panellists brought diverse perspectives from local government, emergency management, community organisations and academia, including Cr Matt Constance ([City of Moreton Bay](#)), Jimmy Scott ([Queensland Reconstruction Authority](#)), Melinda McInturff ([Community Plus+](#)), David Grant ([Bureau of Meteorology](#)), George Hodgson ([National Emergency Management Agency](#)), Kate Retzki ([Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management](#)), and Dr Monica Taylor ([QUT Centre for Justice and School of Law](#)).

Complementing the panel, a [digital poster showcase](#) highlighted how QUT researchers continue to contribute to resilience-building efforts in Queensland and further afield. The event also drew on QUT's previous [Disaster and Environmental Justice Briefing Paper series](#), which provides accessible research insights into equity and accountability in disaster contexts.

[Watch the event video](#)

Queensland Disaster Research Alliance update

Following the panel discussion, [Queensland Disaster Research Alliance](#) (QDRA) led a [Disaster Ready Fund](#) (DRF) workshop hosted at QUT as part of the QDRA & QUT Disaster Resilience Together event. It was energising to bring together colleagues from agencies, councils, universities and community organisations in one room, focused on the same challenge, how we translate shared resilience priorities into practical actions that strengthen outcomes on the ground.

QDRA was grateful for the time and insights of agency partners who participated and contributed across the day, their engagement is exactly what helps turn research conversations into implementable initiatives with clear community benefit.

The DRF workshop was designed to help identify and shape potential collaborative project ideas and teams, bringing research expertise and operational priorities into closer alignment early, before proposals are drafted. QDRA also extends sincere thanks to QUT and all QDRA member universities for being strong partners in delivering the event, and to the facilitators who helped structure discussions and capture the outcomes of the workshop.

In early 2026, QDRA will reconnect with participants who expressed interest in specific ideas, support partner connections across the QDRA network, and help progress the most tangible concepts toward future funding opportunities.

Researchers who are interested in engaging in DRF-aligned projects are encouraged to reach out to QDRA at contact@qdra.org



Contact QDRA

Griffith University: Griffith Institute for Human and Environmental Resilience

The [Griffith Institute for Human and Environmental Resilience](#) (GIHER) brings together experts from across disciplines to better understand how people and nature can thrive together. The researchers explore environmental change, community wellbeing, sustainability, and emerging technologies to help guide practical solutions for a rapidly changing world.



By looking at issues as part of a connected system, spanning natural, built and social environments, they aim to support healthier, safer and more resilient communities.

Read more

Upcoming events and opportunities

CSIRO Kick-Start Program

[CSIRO Kick-Start](#) is an initiative for innovative Australian start-ups and small to medium enterprises, providing funding support and access to CSIRO's research expertise and capabilities to help grow and develop their business.

Benefits of joining the program:

- Access world-class CSIRO research expertise
- Share project costs through matched funding
- Advance prototypes, feasibility studies or product development

Learn more

Regional University Industry Collaboration Program

The [Regional University Industry Collaboration](#) program is designed exclusively for Queensland-based Small to Medium Enterprises, providing support at every stage of their research and development journey. The program offers the skills, funding, expertise, and networks necessary to drive innovation across the state's regions.



Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 19–21 August 2026, Victoria, Melbourne

The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference brings together people from across sectors who are working to strengthen community resilience and reduce disaster risk. Organised by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, the conference is designed for anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in support of communities and wants to contribute to a more resilient Australia.

Earlybird tickets on sale 2 March 2026.

[Abstracts submission portal now open.](#)

Learn more

[Learn more](#)



Floodplain Management Australia National Conference
21–24 April 2026, Gold Coast, Queensland

The Floodplain Management Australia National Conference is heading to Gold Coast this April. With over 400 specialists, community representatives and decision makers, it’s the leading event focused on creating safer, more resilient communities in the face of flooding.

[Learn more](#)

Disaster & Emergency Management Conference
27–28 July 2026, Gold Coast, Queensland

The 2026 Disaster and Emergency Management Conference is bringing together sector leaders and practitioners from across Australia and New Zealand on 27– 28 July 2026. This year’s theme ‘The next chapter in emergency management: adapting, learning and leading,’ explores innovation, collaboration and the future of disaster resilience.

The Office of the IGEM will also be hosting a booth, so make sure to come say hello!

[Register now](#)

Want to see more?

Don’t forget to check out our [Research Connect webpage](#) which has been developed to connect researchers with disaster managers. The Office of the IGEM will continue to grow the Research Connect webpages in collaboration with our stakeholders, and we invite your organisation to share your research content and opportunities on the platform. For more details on how to submit for the next edition, feel free to reach out to IGEM at research@igem.qld.gov.au.

You can also follow us on social media to stay updated with the latest news from the Office of the IGEM. Just click the links below to visit our official page.



Natural Hazards Research Forum
10–12 June 2026

[Natural Hazards Research Australia](#) will host the fifth annual Natural Hazard Research Forum 2026 at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide from 10 to 12 June 2026. The forum offers a unique opportunity to connect with leading research, reflect on lessons learned and discuss how innovation can support safer, more resilient and sustainable communities – now and into the future.

This year, there will be opening keynotes speeches from Brendan Moon AM, Prof Veronica Matthews and Prof Fiona Wood AO.

[Learn more](#)



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