



FACT SHEET 1

Why an Alliance?

The Alliance is a formal partnership between Queensland local governments (through the LGAQ) and the Department of Emergency Services.

The Alliance provides a framework to enhance collaboration and coordination between all levels of Government to ensure communities benefit from appropriate disaster management planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

The purpose and principles of the Alliance and the roles and responsibilities of the partners are detailed in the Alliance Memorandum of Agreement signed on 6 July 2005.

The Alliance has been formed in response to a number of drivers of change. They include:

- the Council of Australian Government (COAG) Report: Natural Disasters in Australia - reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements; and
- the Queensland Audit Office Report No 2 - Audit of the Queensland Disaster Management System.

These reports outline key disaster management reforms including a need for:

- Introduction of a systematic and rigorous risk assessment processes to support planning for disasters;
- Improved land use planning, development and building control regimes that include measures to reduce disaster risk;
- Development of disaster mitigation strategies across all levels of Government;
- Implementation of mitigation initiatives that make infrastructure more resilient;
- Improved community awareness, education, and warnings;
- Support to emergency management volunteers to enhance their ability to support their communities;
- Improved governance and accountability within the Disaster Management System with emphasis on consistency, standardisation and monitoring of disaster management arrangements and plans.
- Improved collaboration and coordination in implementation of these reforms.

Implementing these reform measures requires all three levels of Government to work together. In particular the Alliance recognises the crucial role Local Governments play in disaster management.

Together, Alliance partners seek to ensure disaster management reforms are effectively implemented commensurate with community needs and capabilities.