



## FACT SHEET 5

### Benefits of Regional Alliance Groups

There are many benefits to pursuing a Regional Disaster Management capability within Queensland particularly in achieving effective disaster mitigation.

Disasters rarely follow administrative boundaries and the impact of disasters is often felt by more than one local government within a specific region.

Local Governments are encouraged to adopt a risk-based planning approach when planning for disasters. Conduct of risk studies and risk assessments will lead Local Governments to identify a range of risks to their communities in the event of a disaster. Treating these risks so that the consequences of the disaster are minimised and ensuring that appropriate response and recovery arrangements are in place to deal with residual risks is the aim of disaster management planning.

#### Sharing of Common Risks and Their Treatment

Many local governments will share common disaster risks and will likely benefit from a collaborative or shared approach to treating those risks. The benefit of this collaborative or shared approach may simply be in the sharing of information in relation to the risks and their treatments. Alternately, there may be benefit in Local Governments jointly pursuing mitigation initiatives that provide mutual benefit within a region.

#### More Efficient Funding

A regional approach to disaster mitigation is also likely to result in more efficient funding of mitigation initiatives. Several Local Governments may be able to share the results of regionally based mitigation initiatives thereby reducing the overall cost to individual local governments. Regional mitigation initiatives are also likely to receive stronger support through Australian and State Government funding programmes.

#### Mechanism to Escalate Risks Beyond Local Government Capacity

In some cases local governments either individually, or collectively as a Regional Alliance Group, may identify disaster risks in their community that are beyond their capacity to resolve. Such cases often need to be escalated to the State Government for resolution and action. Local Governments operating as regional collectives will have, through the Alliance framework, a mechanism that will enable them to identify and escalate such issues. Moreover, it provides a means whereby the State Government can be informed of mitigation and disaster management issues that have a regional impact allowing the development of State-wide priorities for mitigation.

#### Knowledge Management and Best Practice Disaster Management

Finally, establishing regionally based collectives of Local Governments focused on addressing common and regional disaster risks and provides a mechanism for the sharing of knowledge in best practice disaster management within like-minded local government areas.