

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO NATIONAL NATURAL DISASTER ARRANGEMENTS

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT 2021

Overview

The Queensland Government remains committed to making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia and strives to safeguard people, property and the environment from disaster impacts, while recognising the importance of empowering and supporting local communities to manage disaster risks, respond to events and be more resilient.

The Queensland Government supports or supports in-principle all recommendations either directed at state and territory governments, or requiring involvement from state and territory governments, with the exception of recommendation 21.2 (a single national approach to fundraising laws) which is 'noted'.

The Queensland Government is ensuring continued implementation of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangement's (the Royal Commission) recommendations, with 13 recommendations delivered in 2021.

Many of the other recommendations require national cooperation and Queensland is working with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments through national working groups and the National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting to deliver reforms such as the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and the Australian Warnings System.

Other actions include, Queensland's participation in the Intergovernmental Agreement for Data Sharing, which will enable states, territories and the Commonwealth Government to develop data standards and information-sharing platforms to implement a number of Royal Commission recommendations.

In addition, the Queensland Government has adopted hourly reporting of air quality as endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop nationally consistent advice for smoke and dust events. Queensland is also working with the Commonwealth, States and Territories to review Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, to improve consistency and streamline the delivery of disaster relief payments across Australia.

At the State level, the Queensland Government has implemented initiatives such as the leasing of a Large Aerial Tanker during current and future bushfire seasons, and the

establishment of new Bushfire Safety Officer roles in the Rural Fire Service for the specific purpose of working with rural fire brigades and traditional owners across Queensland to improve understanding and use of traditional burning practices. The Queensland Government has also invested in additional staff to support the provision of intelligence and predictions during fires and other hazards to inform the decisions of the incident controller.

The Queensland Government's first progress report on implementation of the RCNDA's recommendations is attached.

Queensland Government Implementation Progress Report for 2021: <i>Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report – 28 October 2020</i>		
Recommendation	Government Response	Progress in 2021
3.1 Australian, state and territory governments should restructure and reinvigorate ministerial forums with a view to enabling timely and informed strategic decision-making in respect of: (1) long-term policy improvement in relation to natural disasters (2) national preparations for, and adaptation to, natural disasters, and (3) response to, and recovery from, natural disasters of national scale or consequence including, where appropriate, through the National Cabinet or equivalent intergovernmental leaders' body.	Support	Delivered On 13 November 2020, National Cabinet announced the establishment of a National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM). The NEMMM has been tasked with oversight of the delivery of RCNDA recommendations that have been prioritised by the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC). The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments through the NEMMM to deliver supported recommendations.
3.2 Australian, state and territory governments should establish an authoritative advisory body to consolidate advice on strategic policy and relevant operational considerations for ministers in relation to natural disasters.	Support	Delivered The Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) has been confirmed as the appropriate body to provide this advice. The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the ANZEMC to formulate advice to the NEMMM and NFRC.
3.3 The Australian Government should revise the COMDISPLAN thresholds to provide that a request for Australian Government assistance, including Defence assistance, is able to be made by a state or territory government when: (1) it has exhausted, or is 'likely to exhaust', all government, community and commercial resources (2) it cannot mobilise its own resources (or community and commercial resources) in time, or (3) the Australian Government has a capability that the state or territory does not have.	Note: Federal Government led	
3.4 Australian Government agencies should work together across all phases of disaster management.	Note: Federal Government led	

3.5	The Australian Government should establish a standing entity that will enhance national natural disaster resilience and recovery, focused on long-term disaster risk reduction.	Note: Federal Government led	
3.6	The Australian Government should enhance national preparedness for, and response to, natural disasters, building on the responsibilities of Emergency Management Australia, to include facilitating resource sharing decisions of governments and stress testing national disaster plans.	Note: Federal Government led	
4.1	Australian, state and territory governments should prioritise the implementation of harmonised data governance and national data standards.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.
4.2	Australian, state and territory governments should create common information platforms and share technologies to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021. The Queensland Government provides climate change information services via the Queensland Future Climate Dashboard.
4.3	Australian, state and territory governments should support the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability and aligned climate adaptation initiatives.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability and aligned climate adaptation initiatives, noting the role of the Federal Government in leading implementation.
4.4	The National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability should include tools and systems to support operational and strategic decision making, including integrated climate and disaster risk scenarios tailored to various needs of relevant industry sectors and end users.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the development of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability including tools and systems that support operational and strategic decision making, on the basis that the Commonwealth Government will lead this work.

4.5	Australian, state and territory governments should produce downscaled climate projections: (1) to inform the assessment of future natural disaster risk by relevant decision makers, including state and territory government agencies with planning and emergency management responsibilities (2) underpinned by an agreed common core set of climate trajectories and timelines, and (3) subject to regular review.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop common climate projections.</p> <p>The Queensland Government produces high-quality, downscaled climate projection datasets available via the Queensland Future Climate website. These climate change projections are a key consideration in Queensland's mapping and assessment of natural hazard risks.</p>
4.6	Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop consistent data standards to measure disaster impact.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.
4.7	Australian, state and territory governments should continue to develop a greater capacity to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.
5.1	The Australian Government should make provision, in legislation, for a declaration of a state of national emergency. The declaration should include the following components: (1) the ability for the Australian Government to make a public declaration to communicate the seriousness of a natural disaster (2) processes to mobilise and activate Australian Government agencies quickly to support states and territories to respond to and recover from a natural disaster, and (3) the power to take action without a state or territory request for assistance in clearly defined and limited circumstances.	Note: Federal Government led	The <i>National Emergency Declaration Act 2020</i> (the Act) commenced on 16 December 2020. The Queensland Government notes the stated purpose of a national declaration mechanism is to galvanise Federal Government resources. Deployment of these resources must occur in consultation with affected states and territories to ensure that locally-led arrangements, which contribute to building ongoing resilience in communities, are not unduly impacted.
6.1	State and territory governments should have a structured process to regularly assess the capacity and capability requirements of fire and emergency services, in light of both current and future natural disaster risk.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of a structured process, noting that capacity and capability requirements of Queensland's fire and emergency services are informed by a range of considerations, including climate, population, risk and

			economic projections and the size and geographical diversity of Queensland. Where possible, capacity and capability requirements are scaled and tailored to meet a range of potential quantifiable and unquantifiable risks.
6.2	Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the establishment of a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets. Implementation of this recommendation requires Commonwealth Government leadership as there may be opportunities to draw from existing information systems.
6.3	State and territory governments should update and implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability, or otherwise agree a new strategy, to achieve interoperable communications across jurisdictions.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the National Framework. National interoperability should not limit processes Queensland already has in place with states that border Queensland.
6.4	Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the delivery of the Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability, noting that formalisation of governance arrangements through the NEMMM and the proposed review of a delivery pathway should provide a strong basis for further development.
6.5	Australian, state and territory governments should conduct multi-agency, national-level exercises, not limited to cross-border jurisdictions. These exercises should, at a minimum: (1) assess national capacity, inform capability development and coordination in response to, and recovery from, natural disasters, and (2) use scenarios that stress current capabilities.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of national exercises, that are desktop based and led by the Commonwealth. Field exercises, while supported in-principle, would be costly if personnel and equipment were to be deployed great distances interstate to participate in an exercise, and again, would take resources away from other disaster preparedness and risk mitigation activities.
6.6	The Australian Government should consider whether employment protections under the <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> are sufficient to ensure that fire and emergency services volunteers will not be discriminated against, disadvantaged or	Note: Federal Government led	

	dismissed for reasons associated with their volunteer service during natural disasters.		
7.1	State and territory governments should take steps to ensure that there is better interaction, planning and ongoing understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities and processes by state and territory fire and emergency service agencies and local governments.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has advised that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has reviewed the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) framework.</p> <p>The ADF is recognised as a key partner stakeholder under Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements and has provided invaluable support and assistance to Queensland communities during and after some of the State's most significant disaster events. The Queensland Government will continue to build on this well-established relationship.</p>
7.2	The Australian Government should review the content of the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community manual to ensure consistency of language and application with a revised COMDISPLAN.	Note: Federal Government led	
7.3	The Australian Government should afford appropriate legal protections from civil and criminal liability to Australian Defence Force members when conducting activities under an authorisation to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.	Note: Federal Government led	
8.1	Australian, state and territory governments should develop an Australian-based and registered national aerial firefighting capability, to be tasked according to greatest national need. This capability should include: (1) a modest, very large air tanker/large air tanker, and Type-1 helicopter capability, including supporting infrastructure, aircrew and aviation support personnel, and (2) any other aerial firefighting capabilities (eg Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), line-scanning, transport, and logistics) that would benefit from a nationally coordinated approach.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is supportive of the establishment of a national aerial firefighting capability that is tasked according to greatest national need.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has committed \$15 million over five years from 2020 for a large air tanker to be based in Bundaberg during the Queensland bushfire seasons.</p>

8.2	Australian, state and territory governments should support ongoing research and evaluation into aerial firefighting. This research and evaluation should include: (1) assessing the specific capability needs of states and territories, and (2) exploring the most effective aerial firefighting strategies.	Support	The Queensland Government supports the Commonwealth Government, in consultation with states and territories, leading research and evaluation into the current and future aerial firefighting needs of jurisdictions.
8.3	Australian, state and territory governments should adopt procurement and contracting strategies that support and develop a broader Australian-based sovereign aerial firefighting industry.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of an investigation into the feasibility of long-term contractual arrangements with domestic suppliers of aerial firefighting services, noting the Commonwealth Government, in consultation with states and territories, is best placed to lead this work.
9.1	Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government has reviewed supply chain risks in response to previous disasters and is experienced in ensuring supply of essential goods and services to communities and individuals in times of natural disasters.</p> <p>The potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the establishment of additional mechanisms to manage broader supply chain risks for essential supplies. These mechanisms include proactive engagement with key industries, such as supermarkets, on maintaining essential supply and readiness to apply emergency planning regulations.</p> <p>The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements include well-established and exercised processes aimed at resupplying disaster-isolated communities, rural properties and stranded persons.</p>
9.2	State and territory governments should include road closure and opening information on all roads within their borders on public apps.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the provision of road opening and closure information and has embedded road closure and opening information for all state-controlled roads in Queensland through the QLDTraffic service (website, app and 131 940 phone service).</p>

<p>9.3</p>	<p>State and territory governments should provide information to the public on the closure and opening of roads. Information should be provided in real-time, or in advance based on predictions, where possible.</p>	<p>Support in-principle</p>	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government is supportive of the provision of timely and accurate information to the public on the closure and opening of roads, in the interest of enabling safe and efficient travel, noting that it is not always feasible to provide real-time information on closures, due to the size of the Queensland road network as well as the need to ensure the safety of staff when access to areas is impacted during critical events.</p> <p>The Queensland Government does not publish predictions of closures, due to the potential risk of misinformation.</p> <p>The status of road closures for all state-controlled roads in Queensland is provided through the QLDTraffic service (website, app and 131 940 phone service).</p>
<p>9.4</p>	<p>The Australian Government, working with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators, should lead a process to: (1) identify critical infrastructure (2) assess key risks to identified critical infrastructure from natural disasters of national scale or consequence (3) identify steps needed to mitigate these risks (4) identify steps to make the critical infrastructure more resilient, and (5) track achievement against an agreed plan.</p>	<p>Support in-principle</p>	<p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and critical infrastructure owners and operators to identify critical infrastructure and systems of national significance, and assess key risks and mitigations, including for nationally significant incidents.</p> <p>Queensland notes the Commonwealth Government introduced a Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 to Parliament and is developing Standards and Rules to support this legislation.</p>
<p>9.5</p>	<p>The Australian Government should work with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators to improve information flows during and in response to natural disasters: (1) between critical infrastructure operators, and (2) between critical infrastructure operators and government.</p>	<p>Support in-principle</p>	<p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop a renewed National Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy. This includes the co-design of standards between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the owners and operators of critical infrastructure.</p>

			The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements ensure that the owners and operators of critical infrastructure impacted by the disaster are appropriately engaged.
10.1	State and territory governments should continue to deliver, evaluate and improve education and engagement programs aimed at promoting disaster resilience for individuals and communities	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to implement the annual Get Ready Queensland program. This year-round all-hazards resilience and preparedness program is launched each year prior to Queensland's severe weather season. It involves a broad-reaching awareness campaign, and grants to local governments (total \$2 million per annum) to help communities prepare for disasters and improve their resilience.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will evaluate each campaign and embed learnings into future campaigns to improve community education and awareness.</p>
11.1	State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.	Support in-principle	<p>Delivered</p> <p>Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements provide an established framework to support local governments to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.</p> <p>The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) delivers training to local governments under the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) to enhance capability and support the effective performance of its disaster management responsibilities.</p> <p>QFES also assists local governments to deliver disaster risk assessments under the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework, which is informed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.</p>
11.2	State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local	Support in-principle	Delivered

	governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements: (1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and (2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disaster.		The <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> and Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements provide an established framework for the sharing of resources between local governments during natural disasters.
12.1	State and territory governments, working with local governments and fire and emergency service agencies, should ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for roadside vegetation management that take into account, among other things: (1) priority access and egress routes (2) road priority, utility and strategic value (3) cost, and (4) residual risk to national natural disasters.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government supportive of a process to ensure roadside vegetation management arrangements are appropriate and is working with the Local Government Association of Queensland to provide clarity as to the roles and responsibilities for the management of vegetation within road corridors.</p> <p>The Queensland Government continues to work with landholders to minimise the risk of bushfire ignition and spread through or from the state-controlled road corridor by removing and / or modifying of bushfire fuel hazards.</p>
12.2	State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: (1) roles and responsibilities of state and territory governments, local governments and local communities (2) education and signage about evacuations and evacuation routes, including education of seasonal populations (3) the adequacy of evacuation routes; including contingencies if evacuation routes or centres are assessed as not being able to cope, and (4) the potential inability to evacuate, either by reason of circumstances or personal characteristics.	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans to ensure they remain current and continue to provide for best evacuation outcomes.
12.3	State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to: (1) key risks that essential service outages have on communities during a severe or catastrophic natural disaster (particularly communications and power) (2) availability of	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans to ensure risks to the delivery of essential services can be managed.

	essential supplies, including food and water, and (3) consequence management and compounding events such as the loss of essential services or health impacts.		
12.4	State and territory governments should, as a priority, adopt nationally consistent terminology and functions for the different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters.	Support	The Queensland Government supports nationally consistent terminology and functions for evacuation and sheltering places.
12.5	State and territory governments should provide further community education on the function and limitations of different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters. This education should be nationally consistent.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of community education on evacuation shelters and safer places to ensure communities understand to where they should evacuate as a natural disaster approaches.
12.6	State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review these plans, and update them where appropriate, to account for the existence and standard of any evacuation centres and safer places (however described) in the community, including: (1) the capacity of a centre to handle seasonal population variation (2) the suitability of facilities to cater for diverse groups, including vulnerable people, and those evacuating with animals, and (3) the existence of communications facilities and alternate power sources.	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans, including the suitability of evacuation centres and safer places.
12.7	State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update where appropriate, to provide for coordination between states and territories in cross-border areas and to provide cross-border access to evacuation centres.	Support	The Queensland Government supports the periodic review of evacuation plans, including cross-border arrangements for border communities.
13.1	State and territory governments should expedite the development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. It should ensure that there is national	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop and implement the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.

	consistency in the visual display of the AFDRS and action to be taken in response to each rating.		The new system was tested in Queensland during the 2021 northern Australian bushfire season.
13.2	State and territory governments should deliver education to ensure that the public understands the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System ratings, the potential danger attached to each rating, and the action that should be taken in response to each rating.	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop education and media campaign materials to support the roll out of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.
13.3	State and territory governments should urgently deliver and implement the all-hazard Australian Warning System.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop and implement an all hazards Australian Warning System, with the bushfire warnings introduced in Queensland in December 2020.</p> <p>The Queensland Government continues to progress implementation of the national warnings system for the other nationally agreed key hazards of flood, storm, cyclone and severe heat.</p>
13.4	State and territory governments should ensure that the implementation of the Australian Warning System is accompanied by a carefully developed national education campaign that considers the needs of all Australians.	Support	The Queensland Government is committed to working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop education and media campaign materials to support the roll out of the Australian Warnings System.
13.5	The Australian Government should facilitate state and territory governments working together to develop minimum national standards of information to be included in bushfire warnings apps.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.
13.6	Australian, state and territory governments should continue to explore the feasibility of a national, all-hazard emergency warning app.	Support	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.

14.1	Australian, state and territory governments should: (1) develop close to real-time, nationally consistent air quality information, including consistent categorisation and public health advice (2) greater community education and guidance, and (3) targeted health advice to vulnerable groups.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government has adopted the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee endorsed hourly reporting on air quality. Public messaging is also delivered on forecast air-quality for the next day (24-hour), with targeted advice to vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop nationally consistent advice for smoke and dust events.</p>
14.2	Australian, state and territory governments should develop national air quality forecasting capabilities, which include broad coverage of population centres and apply to smoke and other airborne pollutants, such as dust and pollen, to predict plume behaviour.	Support	The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has upgraded its air quality monitoring stations to include the measurement of airborne particles. DES is also undertaking a program to install seven additional air monitoring stations and 50 smoke sensors.
15.1	Australian, state and territory governments should review Australian Medical Assistance Team capabilities and procedures and develop necessary training, exercising and other arrangements to build capacity for domestic deployments.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>Queensland Health has reviewed its current register of AUSMAT-trained staff to ensure future capacity for domestic deployments.</p> <p>AUSMAT Queensland has deployed Queensland Health and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff to support domestic and international public health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Tasmania, Victoria, the Howard Springs Quarantine Facility in Darwin, Christmas Island, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.</p>
15.2	Australian, state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including: representation on relevant disaster committees and plans and providing training, education and other supports.	Support	The Queensland Government supports and continues to advocate for greater inclusion of primary health care providers and Primary Health Networks in disaster management. Within Queensland, health sub-committees have been established for District Disaster Management Groups throughout Queensland, with representatives from Primary Health Networks

<p>15.3</p>	<p>Australian, state and territory governments should refine arrangements to support localised planning and the delivery of appropriate mental health services following a natural disaster.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Queensland Government has integrated mental health planning through the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, at a local, district and state level.</p> <p>Mental health services are primarily delivered through the establishment of Mental Health Disaster Recovery Teams with joint funding from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under Category C of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has strong partnerships with non-government organisations, which provide a range of social, emotional and psychological support services in response to natural disasters.</p>
<p>15.4</p>	<p>Australian, state and territory governments should agree to: (1) develop consistent and compatible methods and metrics to measure health impacts related to natural disasters, including mental health, and (2) take steps to ensure the appropriate sharing of health and mental health datasets.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation requires Commonwealth Government leadership.</p> <p>Queensland Health is currently implementing a Disaster and Emergency Incidents Relief and Recovery (DEIRR) web application for to capture data during the relief phase (recovery centres) and the recovery phase (deployment of Mental Health Disaster Response Teams).</p>
<p>16.1</p>	<p>Australian, state and territory governments should ensure greater consistency and collaboration in the collation, storage, access and provision of data on the distribution and conservation status of Australian flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Support in-principle</p>	<p>The Queensland Government supports greater availability, consistency and utility of biodiversity data through the Australian Virtual Herbarium, Atlas of Living Australia and the National Vegetation Information System.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, and state and territory governments to develop National Biodiversity Data Governance.</p>
<p>17.1</p>	<p>Public land managers should clearly convey and make available to the public their fuel load management strategies,</p>	<p>Support in-principle</p>	<p>The Queensland Government encourages public land managers to share their fuel load management strategies. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is currently reviewing</p>

	including the rationale behind them, as well as report annually on the implementation and outcomes of those strategies.		the State Bushfire Plan and will seek to address the intent of recommendation 17.1 through amendments to this Plan.
17.2	Australian, state and territory governments should review the assessment and approval processes relating to vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction to: (1) ensure that there is clarity about the requirements and scope for landholders and land managers to undertake bushfire hazard reduction activities, and (2) minimise the time taken to undertake assessments and obtain approvals.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government is working with landholders and land managers to ensure there is a clear understanding of how existing exemptions apply to the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks and fire management lines under Queensland's vegetation management framework.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will also clarify arrangements with a number of local governments that have local laws that also regulate vegetation clearing for fire management.</p>
17.3	Australian, state and territory governments should develop consistent processes for the classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement this recommendation through the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing that was signed at National Cabinet on 9 July 2021.
18.1	Australian, state, territory and local governments should engage further with Traditional Owners to explore the relationship between Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government supports ongoing engagement and collaboration with traditional owners to develop best practice approaches to bushfire mitigation and disaster resilience.</p> <p>The Rural Fire Service is in the process of recruiting eight additional bushfire safety officers across the State to work with traditional owners and RFS brigades to improve understanding and use of traditional burning practices.</p>
18.2	Australian, state, territory and local governments should explore further opportunities to leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of public land management activities.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government supports ongoing collaboration with traditional owners to develop and improve the planning and execution of public land management activities.</p> <p>The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has been developing co-designed management instruments with First Nations groups since 2019. These statutory documents ensure that First Nations culture, heritage and values are prioritised</p>

			alongside other key values of the protected area and identifies opportunities for co-management in the delivery of day-to-day activities.
19.1	State and territory governments should: (1) each have a process or mechanism in place to communicate natural hazard risk information to households (including prospective purchasers) in 'hazard prone' areas, and (2) work together, and with the Australian Government where appropriate, to explore the development of a national mechanism to do the same.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is supportive of the improvement of processes and mechanisms for communicating natural hazard risk information to households to improve individual and community disaster preparation and resilience.
19.2	The insurance industry, as represented by the Insurance Council of Australia, working with state and territory governments and other relevant stakeholders, should produce and communicate to consumers clear guidance on individual-level natural hazard risk mitigation actions insurers will recognise in setting insurance premiums.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports working with the insurance industry to provide information to consumers to mitigate against the impacts of natural disasters to reduce the long-term costs associated with disaster damage and insurance premiums.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has already developed a suite of building guides in partnership with the insurance industry that outline resilient design for Queensland homes, and provides insurance information to consumers through the Get Ready Queensland website and advertising campaigns.</p>
19.3	State, territory and local governments should be required to consider present and future natural disaster risk when making land-use planning decisions for new developments.	Support	The Queensland Government supports a process for land use planning decisions to consider safety and resilience to hazards, including the potential impacts of natural disasters.
19.4	The Australian Building Codes Board, working with other bodies as appropriate, should: (1) assess the extent to which AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, and other relevant building standards, are effective in reducing risk from natural hazards to lives and property, and (2) conduct an evaluation as to whether the National Construction Code should be amended to specifically include,	Support	The Queensland Government supports the Australian Building Codes Board, working with other bodies as appropriate to implement this recommendation.

	as an objective of the code, making buildings more resilient to natural hazards.		
20.1	Governments should create and publish standing policy guidance on whether they will or will not assist to clean-up debris, including contaminated debris, resulting from natural hazards.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>The Queensland Government co-funds and provides guidance on the clean-up of debris by local governments to enable safe access to residential properties.</p> <p>The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) annually reviews and updates the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Guidelines for local governments.</p> <p>The QRA also provides guidance on Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement eligibility for clean-up activities via websites, tip-sheets, pre-season preparedness training, and the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Guidelines.</p>
21.1	State and territory governments should develop and implement efficient and effective arrangements to: (1) educate the public about the challenges associated with donated goods, for example, the storage and distribution of donated goods, and (2) manage and coordinate donated goods to ensure offers of support are matched with need.	Support	<p>Delivered</p> <p>Education on and the management of donated goods are embedded in the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and articulated in the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Management Guideline.</p> <p>The Queensland Government manages and coordinates donated goods through a virtual warehouse, and educates the public on responsible donations across a range of communication platforms.</p>
21.2	Australian, state and territory governments should create a single national scheme for the regulation of charitable fundraising.	Note	<p>Without commitment to a single national scheme from the Federal Government, the Queensland Government can only 'note' this recommendation at this time.</p> <p>The Queensland Government acknowledges the Federal Government is working with the States and Territories to implement a cross-border recognition model for fundraising authorisations, and a framework for the alignment of State and</p>

			Federal financial reporting requirements. While these proposals will deliver some targeted reforms for the charitable fundraising sector, they do not equate to consideration of a single national scheme.
21.3	The Australian Government, through the mechanism of the proposed standing national recovery and resilience agency, should convene regular and ongoing national forums for charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups, with a role in natural disaster recovery, with a view to continuous improvement of coordination of recovery support.	Note: Federal Government led	
21.4	Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national mechanism for sharing of trained and qualified recovery personnel and best practice during and following natural disasters.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the ANZEMC to develop a National Recovery Capability Strategy. This includes development of national arrangements for recovery leadership with the goal of improving national recovery governance, coordination and prioritisation.
21.5	Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop a program for national level recovery exercises, building on the work currently underway through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.	Support	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee to progress this work.
22.1	Australian, state and territory and local governments should evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial assistance measures to inform the development of a suite of pre-effective pre-determined recovery supports.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>As the jurisdiction with most experience in delivering Betterment programs, Queensland is leading the development of a Betterment 'off-the-shelf' package for all states and territories.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that 'off-the-shelf' packages embed sufficient flexibility to be</p>

			tailored so they are fit for purpose, fit for place, and address the specific needs arising from local disaster impacts.
22.2	Australian, state and territory governments should ensure that personal information of individuals affected by a natural disaster is able to be appropriately shared between all levels of government, agencies, insurers, charities and organisations delivering recovery services, taking account of all necessary safeguards to ensure the sharing is only for recovery purposes.	Support in-principle	<p>Implementation of this recommendation requires Commonwealth Government leadership.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is supportive of the development of a national system for the collection and dissemination of personal information, noting that the cost implications are likely to be significant.</p>
22.3	In reviewing the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Australian, state and territory governments should examine the small disaster criterion, and financial thresholds generally.	Support in-principle	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p> <p>Comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of changes to financial thresholds and the small disaster criterion will need to be undertaken to fully appreciate the potential implications of any changes.</p>
22.4	Australian, state and territory and local governments should develop greater consistency in the financial support provided to individuals, small businesses and primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Support in-principle	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
22.5	Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the development of pre-agreed recovery programs, including those that address social needs, such as legal assistance domestic violence, and also environmental recovery.	Support	<p>The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop pre-agreed recovery programs.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to work to ensure that 'off-the-shelf' packages embed sufficient flexibility to be tailored so they are fit for purpose, fit for place, and address the specific needs arising from local impacts.</p>
22.6	Australian, state and territory governments should incorporate the principle of 'build back better' more broadly into the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Support	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to develop new national guidance on essential public asset restoration and betterment.

			Extraordinary assistance packages developed by the Queensland Government in response to previous natural disasters have successfully included “build back better” programs (Betterment). The Queensland Government is leading work to develop a national pre-agreed, off-the-shelf ‘betterment’ package.
22.7	Australian, state and territory governments should broaden Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to encompass funding for recovery measures that are focused on resilience, including in circumstances which are not ‘exceptional’.	Support	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to review the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
22.8	Australian, state and territory governments should create simpler Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements application processes.	Support	The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to streamline and simplify Category C and D processes. New processes will continue to be trialled in 2021-22.
24.1	The Australian Government should establish accountability and assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Note: Federal Government led	
24.2	Each state and territory government should establish an independent accountability and assurance mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Support	Delivered The Queensland Government supports an independent mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice, noting that the functions of the independent Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, established under the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> (Qld) include: monitoring the compliance of departments with their disaster management responsibilities and identifying opportunities to improve disaster management outcomes.
24.3	The material published as part of this Royal Commission should remain available and accessible on a long-term basis for the benefit of individuals, communities, organisations, businesses and all levels of government.	Note: Federal Government led	