

2008/2009

State Disaster
Management Group

Annual Report



Queensland
Government

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Letter of Transmission

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and
Emergency Services
GPO Box 1377
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

There is a high risk of natural disaster in Queensland, higher than most other states in Australia. Queensland has long been vulnerable to impacts from a range of natural disasters including such extreme events as floods, bushfires, cyclones, severe storms and tsunami.

The risk is also increasing from non-natural disasters, with a higher presentation of community activity in areas including technology; storage and transport of hazardous materials; the importation of goods and produce and terrorism threats.

Coordination is the key to reducing the adverse impact of disasters upon Queensland communities. Reducing community vulnerability to extreme events is the responsibility of everyone — the public and private sectors, local communities, families and individuals.

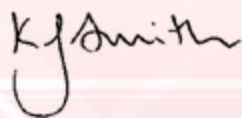
Disaster management needs to be competently and cooperatively managed. The State Disaster Management Group needs to be an efficient and effective team, utilising a comprehensive 'all-hazards' approach in its event management. For Queensland to become a safer and more sustainable place to live, all Queenslanders need to understand and consider the hazards and risks within their communities and take the initial steps to protect themselves and assist their neighbours.

The actions outlined in this report continue to build on the Queensland Government priority of creating safer, more sustainable communities.

So that disaster management stakeholders and Queensland communities are informed of the initiatives and actions undertaken in relation to disaster management, the report will be made available through the websites of www.emergency.qld.gov.au and www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

I commend the 2008–2009 State Disaster Management Group Annual Report to you.

Yours sincerely



Ken Smith
Chairperson
State Disaster Management Group

Machinery of Government Impacts

Following significant amendments to Queensland's Machinery of Government effective from 26 March 2009, State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) membership was reviewed and enhanced to include each of the 13 identified Queensland Government departments. Subsequently, SDMG member agencies were officially appointed by Governor in Council on 23 April 2009.

The enhancement of SDMG membership to reflect identified government functions ensures the SDMG continues to undertake a collaborative, whole-of-Government approach to disaster management into the future.

The following table provides a summary of the significant changes:

Current Member Agency	Previous Agency	Previous Status
Department of Communities (Communities)	Department of Communities	Member
	Department of Housing	Advisor
Department of Community Safety (DCS)	Department of Emergency Services	Member
Department of Education and Training (DET)	Department of Education, Training and the Arts.	Advisor
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)	Department of Mines and Energy	Advisor
	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Member
	Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry	Member
Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)	Environmental Protection Agency	Advisor
	Department of Natural Resources and Water	Advisor
Queensland Health (QHealth)	Queensland Health	Member
Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)	Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation	Member
Department of Justice and Attorney-General (JAG)	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations	Advisor
Queensland Police Service (QPS)	Queensland Police Service	Member
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Member
Department of Public Works (DPW)	Department of Public Works	Member
Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)	Queensland Transport	Member
	Department of Main Roads	Advisor
Queensland Treasury (Treasury)	Queensland Treasury	Advisor

Executive Summary

During the 2008–2009 reporting period the SDMG undertook the following major activities:

Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) were activated for an extended period from January to March 2009 to assist flooding events in far north and north Queensland, resulting from Tropical Cyclones (TC) Charlotte and Ellie. A total of 40 local governments were activated for disaster relief assistance during this event. Extensive flooding in the gulf country saw the small town of Karumba isolated from the beginning of January through to March 2009, whilst the areas of Ingham and Normanton also experienced significant flooding during this time. Impacts of this event included:

- significant community disruption, including school closures and damage to community infrastructure
- over 500 tonnes of food, medical and essential supplies and approximately 211,000 litres of fuel transported to isolated communities due to road closures
- Defence Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) requests including the provision of:
 - » 4500 ration packs for Ingham residents
 - » bulk aviation fuel supply at the Ingham airport to maintain disaster relief flights
 - » installation and operation of a water purification plant in Karumba from late February to early May 2009.

Tropical Cyclone Hamish

Disaster management stakeholders across all tiers of the QDMA worked around the clock on the eve of 8 March 2009 to coordinate mass evacuation and reception arrangements in preparation for a Category 5 TC which threatened to make landfall in the Queensland north coast area of Hervey Bay. Fortunately, landfall did not eventuate, however the planning and coordination arrangements established for this event continue to inform mass evacuation planning initiatives being undertaken by SDMG member agencies.

Exercise Mercury 08

During October 2008 SDMG member agencies participated in the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) multi-jurisdictional exercise *Mercury 08*, involving numerous preparatory workshops which culminated in a field exercise held from 14 to 16 October 2008. The exercise was designed to enhance Australia's national Prevention (Mitigation), Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) capacity in relation to threats and/or acts of terrorism

against Australia and Australia's interests.

The Queensland component of this exercise included testing the QDMA's capacity in relation to counter-terrorism with a particular focus on consequence management, which favourably demonstrated the capacity of the QDMA to coordinate large scale incidents and reaffirmed PPRR capability across the state. SDMG members were directly involved in this exercise through participation in an extraordinary meeting held on 14 October 2008.

Pacific Adventurer oil spill

On 12 March 2009 the Premier of Queensland pronounced a disaster declaration following an oil spill from the cargo ship *Pacific Adventurer*, which lost 31 containers of ammonium nitrate overboard in cyclonic high seas following TC Hamish. The QDMA was activated to support Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ – a division of DTMR) with clean-up and recovery efforts following the oil spill, which affected areas of the south east Queensland coast, including the Sunshine Coast and Moreton and Bribie Islands.

The three-month environmental and economic recovery effort involved over 2,500 persons from a variety of federal, state and local government agencies, private companies and contractors at a cost of approximately \$31 million. Key highlights of the Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill event include the provision of technical expertise in relation to oil clean-up techniques, cost recovery and legal processes and the establishment of an independent scientific advisory panel to provide strategic environmental advice – the first of its kind undertaken on this scale in Australia.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

QHealth continues to lead the Queensland Government's response to the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in accordance with national and state pandemic influenza plans, formulated through extensive whole-of-Government, community and industry planning and preparation over the previous two years. The Queensland Government response to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 through the various response stages of Delay, Contain and Protect demonstrates the strength of integrated disaster management planning, response and recovery arrangements, with all levels of government, community and industry contributing in a seamless way. Collaborative planning and response to this event, teamed with strong coordination and communication by the Queensland Government, has again demonstrated the capacity of the QDMA.

Other key achievements

- The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) continue to provide assistance to communities affected by the South–East Queensland Low event in May 2009 and the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Fraser Coast Flooding event in April 2009, with total expenditure estimated to be over \$10.8 million.
- Communities has facilitated over \$22.2 million worth of personal hardship grants to families affected by disaster events during the 2008–2009 reporting period.
- A total of 1835 Queensland Government staff participated in the *Introduction to Community Recovery* training program delivered by Communities, identifying a pool of employees to undertake the role of recovery workers during disaster events.
- A new QHealth Disaster Plan was implemented in September 2008 following two years of extensive consultation across the health sector. The plan, a sub-plan of the *State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP)*, provides agency-wide consistency to disaster preparedness and major emergency incident response, in recognition of QHealth's functional responsibilities within the QDMA.
- During the 2008–2009 reporting period DPC established the State Crisis Communication Network, which facilitates a coherent, whole-of-Government public information effort in Queensland during a crisis.
- QPS's significant redundancy in terms of skilled officers undertaking key disaster management coordination and operational policing support roles across the state has been demonstrated through the prolonged activation of District Disaster Coordination Centres in response to significant flood events during early 2009 and the response to the Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill and Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 events.
- During 2008–2009 QPS has developed a self-paced education product, providing fundamental disaster management training to district police officers. During this period, 72 district police attended Emergency Management Australia (EMA) training courses to assist in their professional development above the fundamental disaster management training available within Queensland.
- Employment, Industry Development and Innovation (EIDI), a division of DEEDI, has implemented Building Business Resilience – Business Continuity Planning workshops regionally. This free workshop provides business owners/operators with tools, resources and a comprehensive process to enable them to develop a Business Continuity Plan to build a more sustainable business. During the reporting period nine workshops were delivered across Queensland regions.
- DERM established an Incident Response Unit consisting of specialist officers, enhancing the capability of the department to provide onsite response, with a particular focus on providing an environmental advisory service to agencies controlling chemical and pollution incident response and recovery. The Incident Response Unit focussed on developing contingency plans and response systems for DERM's effective contribution to response actions across the state.
- DIP has released the draft *South East Queensland Climate Change Management Plan*. The aim of this plan is to help the region become more resilient to the impacts of climate change on south east Queensland's built environment, communities, infrastructure and ecosystems.
- Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, a division of DEEDI, has established Biosecurity Queensland's First Response Unit, a specialist group of staff capable of quick deployment across the state to establish operational state and local control centres. In addition, Biosecurity Queensland have conducted extensive training sessions throughout the reporting period, covering biosecurity emergency foundations, systems, respiratory management, leadership and restrictive area movement and security. Training and awareness sessions have also been provided to external agencies in relation to the *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)*; the *Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANTPLAN)*; the *Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN)* and whole-of-Government arrangements for emergency response.
- DCS has been working towards the implementation of the national Disaster Resilience Package (DRP) through a number of internal initiatives including reviewing the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and developing a DRP State Position Paper, National Partnership Agreement and forms and guidelines, with a subsequent Queensland Government commitment of \$22.08 million over four years.
- Prison teams from Queensland Corrective Services were deployed to the Gap, Rosewood, Ingham and the Sunshine Coast to assist with disaster operations, completing over 6,000 hours of community service in these areas, representing a value of \$90,000. Prison teams provided assistance through a variety of hands-on tasks, including debris clean-up, filling sandbags and building temporary levees.
- Following the successful deployment of temporary flood barriers in Charleville during early 2008, DCS procured and brought to operational readiness one kilometre of temporary flood barrier at a cost of \$1.406 million. Guidelines on the use of the temporary flood barriers were produced by Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) and distributed to local governments and EMQ regional offices.

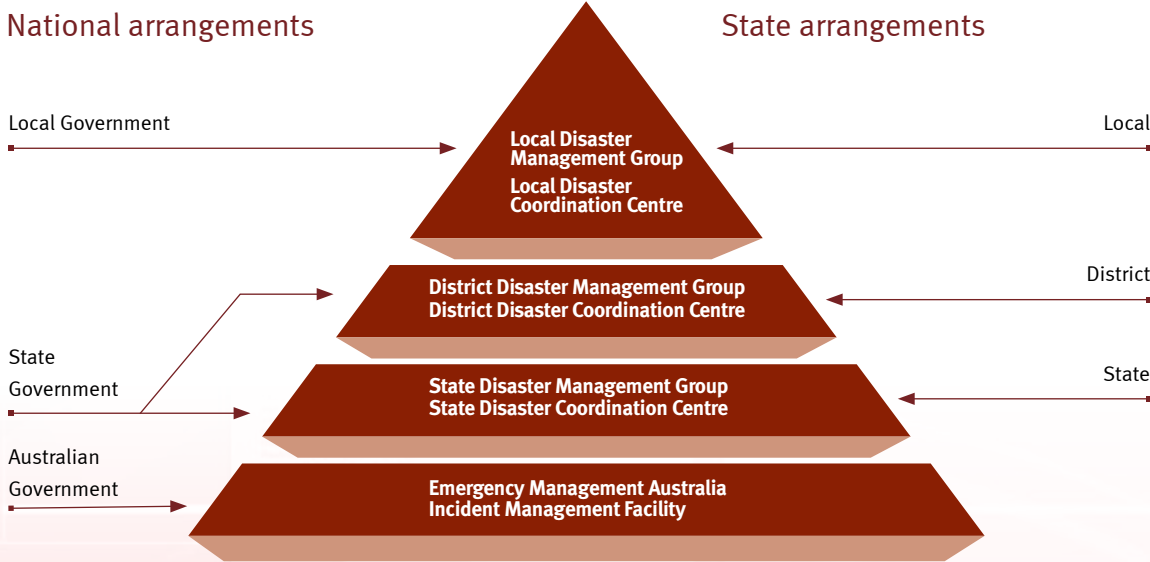
Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements – an overview

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DM Act) provides the legislative basis for disaster management arrangements in Queensland including:

- establishing disaster management groups for state, disaster districts and local government areas
- detailing planning requirements at each tier
- maintaining the role and operations of the State Emergency Services (SES) and establishment of Emergency Service Units
- providing for the conferring of powers on selected individuals and groups.

Queensland’s whole-of-Government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnerships between all levels of government, government-owned corporations (GOCs), non-government organisations (NGOs), commerce and industry sectors and the local community. These arrangements recognise each tier of the disaster management arrangements working collaboratively to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.

The QDMA are based on a four-tiered system, incorporating the three levels of government (federal, state and local), with an additional state government tier known as disaster districts, enabling more efficient and effective operational service delivery in support of the local communities.



Queensland disaster management arrangements

Queensland’s arrangements complement and contribute to the development of disaster management strategic policy and planning at the national level. Queensland is represented on a range of national committees to ensure cooperation and coordination of disaster management initiatives across Australia. Examples of these forums are the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM), which considers high-level policy issues, and the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC), consisting of senior government officials, which progresses strategic initiatives. National, state, functional agency and threat-specific plans have been developed for natural and non-natural hazards and disasters.

The QDMA are made up of several key management and coordination structures through which the functions of disaster management for Queensland are achieved.

The principle structures comprising the QDMA are:

- Disaster management groups operating at local, district and state tiers are responsible for the planning, organisation, coordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate/prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.
- Coordination centres at local, district and state tiers support disaster management groups in coordinating information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations.
- State government functional agencies, through which the functions and responsibilities of the state in relation to disaster management are managed and coordinated.
- State government threat-specific agencies, responsible for the management and coordination of combating threats.

Local Government

The functions of a local government under the DM Act are to:

- ensure it has a disaster response capability (s. 80(2))
- approve its Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) (DM Act, Part 3)
- ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) for the disaster district in which it is situated
- perform other functions given to the local government under the DM Act.

Local governments are best situated to provide first-hand knowledge and understanding of social, economic, infrastructure and environmental issues within their communities. Additionally, local governments are ideally placed to support their communities from a disaster management perspective. This is achieved through their Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

Local Disaster Management Groups

LDMGs are established to support the disaster management activities of local governments and are chaired by the Mayor or another official elected member of the council. District Disaster Management Groups (DDMG) are called upon to support the LDMG if and when disaster management activities exceed the capacity of a LDMG and when coordination of more than one local government is required.

The functions of the LDMG include (but are not limited to*):

- developing, regularly reviewing and assessing effective disaster management
- assisting local government to prepare a LDMP
- ensuring the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster
- identifying and coordinating resources that may be used for disaster operations at the local level
- managing disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the SDMG
- ensuring disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the SDMG's Strategic Policy Framework (SPF) for disaster management for the state.

* Refer to s. 30 of the DM Act for a complete list of functions of the LDMG.

LDMGs play a key role in the QDMA and are best placed to determine the resourcing requirements for their local community, to minimise hardship and suffering.

Queensland Government

District Disaster Management Groups

DDMGs comprise representatives from regionally based government, GOC and NGOs which can provide and coordinate whole-of-Government support and resource Government Asset Protection assistance to disaster-stricken communities. The DDMGs perform a 'middle management' function within the QDMA by providing coordinated Queensland Government support when requested by LDMGs on behalf of local governments.

The DDMGs carry out a number of functions relating to disaster management, including:

- ensuring disaster management and disaster operations are consistent with the SDMG's SPF for disaster management for the state
- developing effective disaster management for the district, including a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) and to regularly review and assess disaster management arrangements
- ensuring the community is aware of ways to mitigate the adverse effects of an event and to prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster.

District Disaster Coordinator

The DDC, as Chair of the DDMG, is responsible for:

- managing and coordinating the business of the DDMG
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that the DDMG performs its functions
- coordinating disaster operations in the disaster district for DDMG
- reporting regularly to the SDMG on the performance of the DDMG.

The DDC may, with the approval of the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, declare a disaster situation for all or part of a disaster district, enabling specific powers under the DM Act to be exercised.

The Police District Officer has been appointed by Governor in Council as the DDC for each disaster district, with the exception of the Brisbane Disaster District. The Superintendent, Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch is the DDC for the Brisbane Disaster District.

It should be noted that when performing the role of DDMG Chairperson, a DDC is operating under provisions of the DM Act. In cases where a DDMG is convened in response to a disaster event, another police officer will generally be appointed to undertake the policing responsibilities of the DDC for the period concerned.

State Disaster Management Group

The SDMG is the peak disaster management policy and decision-making body in Queensland and is responsible to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services. Under the DM Act, the main functions of the SDMG are to:

- develop an SPF for disaster management for the state
- ensure an effective disaster management system is developed and implemented for the state
- ensure effective arrangements between the state and the Australian Government on matters relating to effective disaster management are established and maintained
- identify resources within and outside the state that may be used for disaster response operations
- provide reports and make recommendations to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations
- prepare a SDMP.

Membership

In accordance with s. 19 of the DM Act, SDMG membership comprises Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of participating state government departments and an Executive Officer (XO), appointed by the Governor in Council; and the CEO of DCS, who has permanent standing membership under the authority of the DM Act.

Current membership, as appointed by Governor in Council on 23 April 2009, consists of:

- Director-General, Department of Communities
- Director-General, Department of Community Safety (Deputy Chairperson)
- Director-General, Department of Education and Training
- Executive Director, Emergency Management Queensland (XO)
- Director-General, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
- Director-General, Department of Environment and Resource Management
- Director-General, Queensland Health
- Coordinator-General and Director-General, Department of Infrastructure and Planning
- Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Chairperson)
- Director-General, Department of Public Works
- Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Under Treasurer and Under-Secretary, Queensland Treasury.

The SDMG is further supported by the:

- State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) – an operational coordination committee.
- State Disaster Mitigation Committee (SDMC) – a mitigation policy and planning committee.

Members of these committees comprise representatives from threat-specific and functional agencies, industry and commerce and NGOs.

At times, it may be necessary for the SDMG to invite a range of entities, such as GOCs, NGOs and commerce and industry to provide event specific, technical advice.

Executive Officer to the SDMG

Under the DM Act the XO must undertake the following functions:

- regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the state, including the SDMP
- regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by DDMGs and LDMGs
- establish and maintain arrangements between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government about matters relating to effective disaster management

- ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the state are consistent with the disaster management SPF
- manage and coordinate the business of the SDMG
- coordinate Queensland Government and Australian Government assistance for disaster management and disaster operations
- ensure that persons performing functions under the DM Act in relation to disaster operations are properly trained
- appoint, under s. 27, the XO's of the DDMGs
- regularly report to the SDMG about the performance of the XO's functions
- support the SDMG in performance of its functions.

Functional arrangements

To provide for the effective coordination of state level capabilities in disaster management, Queensland has adopted the concept of 'functional agencies'. Each functional agency is responsible to the SDMG for the provision of specific state government services, expertise and support required by local communities or to the Queensland Government prior to, during and after disaster events.

Functional agencies are nominated on the basis of Machinery of Government agency roles. The specific requirements for each function are outlined in the SDMP and agency functional plans. The allocation of functional responsibilities to government agencies is outlined in the following table:

Function	Agency
Building and Engineering Services	Department of Public Works
Communications Services	Department of Public Works
Community Recovery	Department of Communities
Coordination of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements	Department of Community Safety through Emergency Management Queensland
Dam Safety / Flooding	Department of Environment and Resource Management
Electricity / Fuel / Gas Supply	Queensland Mines and Energy (DEEDI)
Emergency Supply	Department of Public Works
Health	Queensland Health
Transport and Transport Engineering	Department of Transport and Main Roads

Threat-specific arrangements

In addition to functional agency responsibilities, Queensland has identified a number of specific potential threats where government departments and agencies have a designated role. These agencies are allocated

responsibility to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from the specific threats based on agency core business.

The QDMA can be activated to coordinate resources in support of agency operations as required, and can be invoked to manage the wider consequences of specific threats under the arrangements described above.

The current allocation of threat-specific responsibilities to government agencies is outlined below:

Threat	Agency
Biological	Queensland Health
Bushfires	Department of Community Safety through Rural Operations, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS)
Chemical	Department of Community Safety through QFRS
Environmental	Department of Environment and Resource Management
Exotic / Aquatic animal disease and plant disease	Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (DEEDI)
Major Crime	Queensland Police Service
Oil spill at Sea	Maritime Safety Queensland (DTMR)
Pandemic Influenza	Queensland Health
Radiological	Queensland Health

Australian Government

Prime responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment rests with individual states and territories. However, the Australian Government is committed to supporting states and territories in developing their capacity for dealing with emergencies and disasters and provides physical assistance to requesting states or territories when they cannot reasonably cope during an emergency. Under Australia's Constitution the Australian Government is allocated responsibility for external affairs, including the provision of humanitarian assistance for emergency and refuge relief overseas.

The Federal Attorney-General is responsible for disaster related matters. EMA, a division of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (AGD), is the nominated agency responsible for planning and coordinating Australian Government physical assistance to states and territories under the *Australian Government Disaster Response Plan* (COMDISPLAN). Coordination of these functions is carried out from the EMA National Incident Management Facility.

Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

One of the key functions of the SDMG as outlined under s. 18 of the DM Act is to develop an SPF for disaster management for the state.

The Disaster Management SPF identifies principles that guide the development and implementation of policies and initiatives to achieve the Queensland Government's priorities, in particular the achievement of safer and more sustainable communities. The SPF provides a tool for the effective integration of disaster management planning and programming across agencies and sectors and provides a strategic benchmark for reporting and evaluation of outcomes.

The aim of the Disaster Management SPF is to:

- articulate the vision and goals for disaster management for the state in line with the objectives of the DM Act
- outline the strategic direction to guide the development of disaster management policies and programs for Queensland
- focus on a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to disaster management
- align the strategic direction for disaster risk reduction with international and national reforms
- mainstream disaster mitigation into relevant areas of activity of government, NGOs, small business and corporations
- outline the governance and accountability arrangements in place that support the achievement of disaster management priorities.

The Disaster Management SPF identifies elements of disaster management in line with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*:

Disaster Research – systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem.

Policy and Governance – clear direction of disaster management priorities, resource allocation and accountability through sound performance management and risk management for the whole disaster management system.

Disaster Risk Assessment – determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards or other criteria.

Disaster Mitigation – the means taken in advance of, or after a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment.

Disaster Preparedness – arrangements ensuring that, should an emergency occur, the resources and services which are required in order to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

Disaster Response – actions undertaken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency to ensure its effects are minimised.

Disaster Relief and Recovery – provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs to persons affected by, or responding to an emergency.

Post-Disaster Assessment – evaluation of risks revealed by an emergency or disaster event in order to improve future development of mitigation measures. Post-disaster assessment forms part of continuous improvement of the whole system.

Further information and a copy of the disaster management SPF can be obtained from www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications.

A copy of the COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)* can be obtained from <http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/policy.jsp#COAG>.



SDMG Reporting Requirements

In accordance with s. 44 of the DM Act, the SDMG must, as soon as practicable at the end of each financial year, produce a written report to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services detailing disaster management within the state, including:

- information on activities undertaken during the financial year to maintain or enhance the state's disaster management
- details of disaster operations performed during the financial year
- information about disaster management priorities
- other disaster management matters as appropriate.

To comply with legislative requirements, the 2008–2009 SDMG Annual Report consists of three parts:

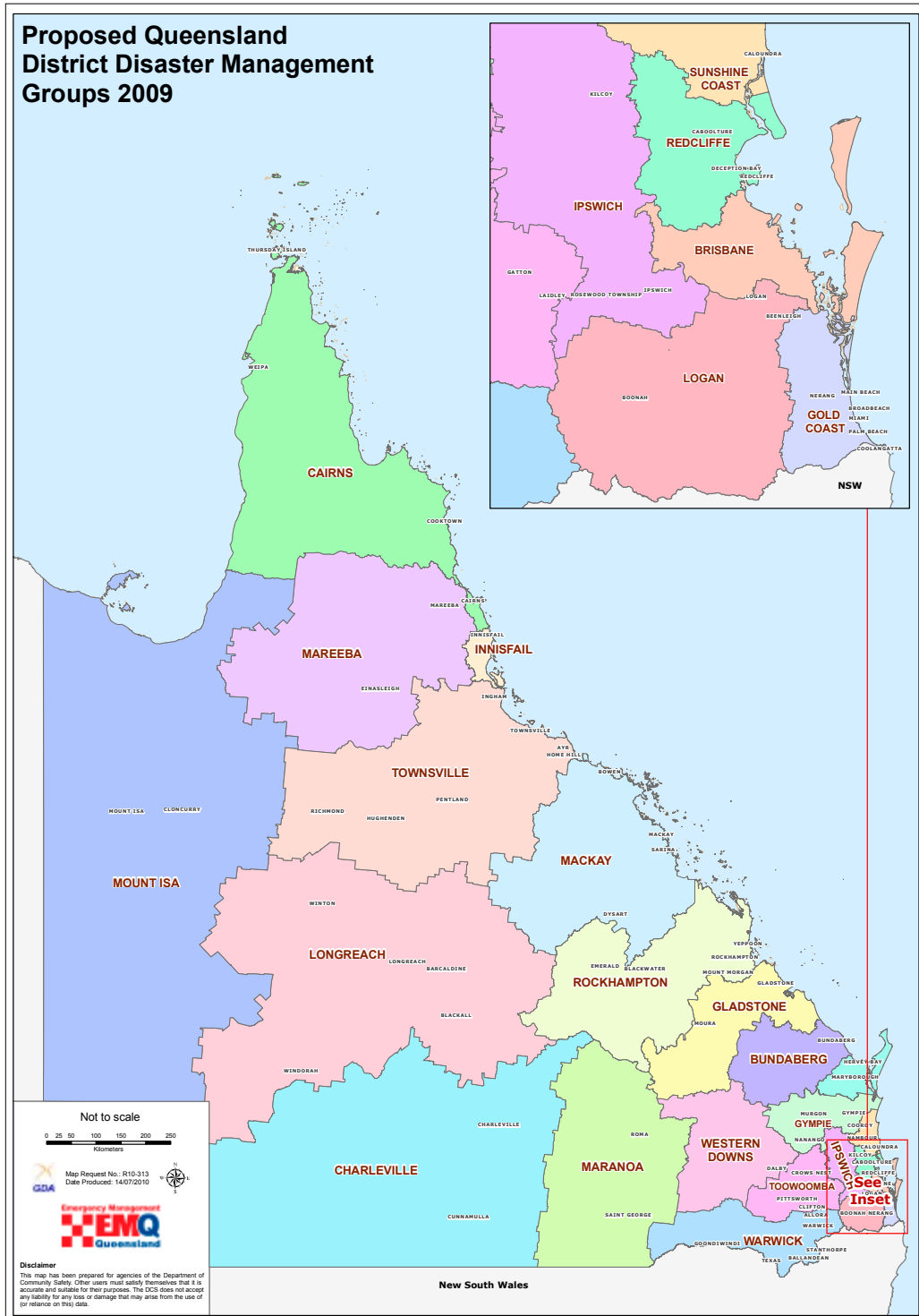
- **Part One – Reporting against Disaster Management Elements** – demonstrates how the SDMG is working collaboratively to achieve the key performance indicators for each disaster management element, as identified by the Disaster Management SPF.
- **Part Two – Executive Officer's Report** – a summary of activities undertaken in support of the XO's functions, outlined in s. 21 of the DM Act.
- **Part Three – Disaster Events** – details the disaster events which occurred during the reporting period.

To ensure the report is inclusive and presents an accurate portrayal of disaster management across the state, the report has been compiled based on contributions from a variety of disaster management stakeholders, including SDMG member agencies and data obtained from DDMG Annual Reports (incorporating a summary of LDMG activities).

ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
DISASTER RESEARCH	Use collaborative and best practice research to inform disaster management and improve the effectiveness of disaster management principles, policy development and practices	(a) Formal partnerships established with researchers (b) Research outcomes inform disaster management policy development and practice
POLICY & GOVERNANCE	Disaster management outcomes are achieved through the development and implementation of sound policy and effective corporate governance	(c) Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the disaster management system (d) Legislative requirements are supported by disaster management policies
DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT	Disaster risk assessments are used to protect life and property and contribute to sustainable development	(e) Comprehensive disaster risk assessments are complete, relevant and updated regularly
DISASTER MITIGATION	Reduced risk and enhanced community resilience	(f) Mitigation priorities are determined by evidence of disaster risk assessments
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	Create aware and prepared communities	(g) Increased level of community disaster awareness (h) Increased level of community disaster preparedness (i) Disaster management plans are in place at all levels of the disaster management system
DISASTER RESPONSE	The impacts of a disaster are minimised by effective and efficient disaster response	(j) All disasters are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner
DISASTER RELIEF & RECOVERY	Improved functions of communities following a disaster	(k) Relief and recovery arrangements are properly integrated into disaster management arrangements
POST-DISASTER ASSESSMENT	Post-disaster assessment strengthens Queensland's disaster management capability	(l) Lessons learnt from disaster events and disaster management exercises are embedded into disaster management planning

District Disaster Management Group Overview

Established under the DM Act, DDMGs comprise representatives from regionally based government agencies, GOC and NGOs which can provide and coordinate whole-of-Government support and resource assistance to disaster stricken communities. DDMGs perform a regional management function within the QDMA by providing coordinated state government support to LDMGs on behalf of local governments.



Queensland demographics

Size of District (km²):	1,729,890 km ² : it is ~2400km from Brisbane in the south to the tip of Cape York in the north and ~1600km east to west from Brisbane to Birdsville.
Population:	Circa 4.2 million
Geography:	Interior desert, lush coast and reef
Climate and weather:	Temperate / tropical / sub-tropical / humid
Industry:	Pastoral industry including cattle, sheep and agriculture; tourism; mining, gas/oil production.
Transport Routes:	Main roads include highways and urban main road networks; rail network; air and sea services.
Identified Hazards include:	Floods, tropical cyclones, storm tide, fire; exotic animal / plant disease; earthquake, landslide, tsunami and severe storm, thunder storm.
Local Governments: (within Disaster District)	There are 73 local governments within Queensland and Weipa Town Authority, which for the purposes of disaster management is treated as a local government.

Disaster District profile

DDMG	Local Disaster Management Groups by Disaster District	*Population (Approx.)	**Size of District – km ² (Approx.)
Brisbane	Brisbane, Redlands	1,164,791	1,860
Bundaberg	Bundaberg, North Burnett	102,987	26,102
Cairns	Aurukun, Cairns, Cook, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern – Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw, Torres, Torres Strait, Weipa, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah	185,234	134,045
Charleville	Bulloo, Murweh, Quilpie, Paroo	9,214	229,458
Dalby	Dalby	30,869	37,938
Gladstone	Banana, Gladstone	73,016	39,012
Gold Coast	Gold Coast	497,848	1,332
Gympie	Cherbourg, Gympie, South Burnett	79,289	15,299
Innisfail	Cassowary Coast	30,356	4,684
Ipswich	Ipswich, Somerset	174,766	6,462
Logan	Logan, Scenic Rim	306,165	5,206
Longreach	Blackall-Tambo, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Longreach, Winton	10,458	240,121
Mackay	Isaac, Mackay, Whitsunday	167,666	90,124
Mareeba	Croydon, Etheridge, Tablelands	46,505	133,482
Maryborough	Fraser Coast	95,689	7,102
Mount Isa	Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomadgee, McKinlay, Mornington Island, Mount Isa	31,686	394,774
Redcliffe	Moreton Bay	356,709	2,033
Rockhampton	Central Highlands, Rockhampton, Woorabinda	141,737	78,537
Roma	Balonne, Roma	17,980	89,815
Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast	312,804	3,120
Toowoomba	Lockyer Valley, Toowoomba	189,070	15,221
Townsville	Burdekin, Charters Towers, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville	223,470	147,789
Warwick	Southern Downs, Goondiwindi	45,606	26,374

*Population Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2008.

**District Size Source: Department of Environment and Resource Management Digital Cadastral Database 2009.

PART ONE – REPORTING AGAINST THE STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

Element One – Disaster Research

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
Use collaborative and best practice research to inform disaster management and improve the effectiveness of disaster management principles, policy development and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal partnerships established with researchers • Research outcomes inform disaster management policy development and practice.

SDMG Member Agencies

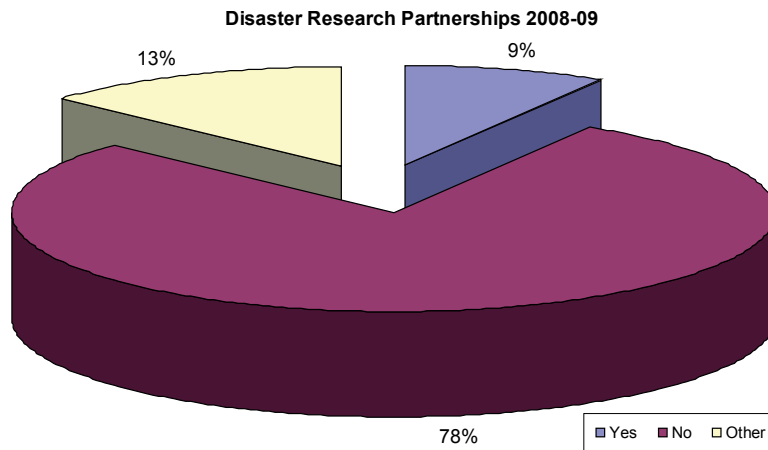
During the 2008–2009 reporting period, SDMG member agencies established a number of formal and informal partnerships with other government agencies, GOCs and NGOs to further research in the area of disaster management.

Key initiatives are outlined below (by exception).

DCS	<p>Through EMQ, DCS supports disaster research at James Cook University (JCU) through a grant that funds the JCU Centre for Disaster Studies. The four main areas of research for the 2008-2009 reporting period were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tourism and tourist impact, including crises recovery in tourist reliant destinations • bushfires – working with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre on issues such as community preparedness and hazard warnings • hazard research in the form of a case study of the 2008 Mackay and Charleville floods • social impact assessments – developing an assessment tool for hazard mitigation. <p>DCS further sponsors research through participation in the University of Queensland Internship Program. During 2008-2009 two interns worked on successive programs aimed at developing a manual of community resilience for local government.</p> <p>During 2008 the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) conducted research on behalf of the Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) into the national triage tag system. Research outcomes will now be presented to the CAA and the Australian Health Protection Committee and will assist with the development of a national standard on this issue.</p> <p>Collaboration continues with a number of Australasian Fire Authorities towards the creation of an electronic Incident Action Plan, which will improve operational information and enhance incident management by replacing antiquated hard-copy reporting mechanisms with an electronically streamlined process.</p>
DEEDI	<p>During 2008 Powerlink Queensland engaged the Australian Government Critical Infrastructure and Protection Modelling Analysis Program (CIPMA), which is managed through AGD in close affiliation with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Geoscience Australia. The aim of CIPMA is to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and assist in the development and direction of government policy in relation to national security and critical infrastructure protection. The research commissioned by Powerlink Queensland has now been completed and although preliminary outcomes are not yet available, it is anticipated that Powerlink Queensland and other GOCs will use this research to update plans to strengthen pylons for the existing network.</p>
DET	<p>In July 2008 DET commenced primary research into pandemic planning through EdRisk; an inter-jurisdictional network formed specifically for information sharing and research purposes. This three-month research program allowed for the incorporation of international best practice which informed the development and provision of pandemic resources for Queensland schools.</p>
DIP	<p>In July 2009 DIP released for public consultation the draft <i>South East Queensland Climate Management Plan</i>, which aims to align and coordinate the implementation of regional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to, and reduce risks from natural hazards, including the projected effects of climate change. The draft plan has been largely informed by current climate change research undertaken through the South East Queensland Climate Adaptation Research Initiative, a three-year research program involving scientists from the CSIRO Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship, Griffith University, the University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Queensland and supported by the Queensland Government Smart State Fund and the Australian Department of Climate Change. The draft plan will support the implementation of the climate change policies outlined in the <i>South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031</i> and provides numerous draft actions that will inform disaster management policy development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Coastal Plans and supporting guidelines incorporating storm tide inundation and risk mapping for hazard prone areas • review of <i>State Planning Policy 1/03—Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide</i> • development of a regional summary of projected climate change impacts for south east Queensland • development of communication strategies.
DPW	<p>The James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station has been commissioned by DPW to undertake testing of a range of building systems and materials to determine their suitability for use in the construction of community cyclone shelters. This research, commissioned in August 2008, is due for completion in May 2010 and will include testing of debris screens and door materials for use in community cyclone shelters. All testing is undertaken in accordance with the wind and debris loads criteria described in the <i>Design Guidelines for Queensland Cyclone Shelters 2006</i>.</p>
Communities	<p>The 2007–2008 James Cook University Research Project ‘PRE & RAPID Community Recovery’ informed the development of new policies, procedures and structures for community recovery during 2008–2009. The research project has been referred to the State Community Recovery Committee for consideration.</p>
QHealth	<p>Contribution is continuing on a number of significant research projects occurring under the jurisdiction of the Australian Health Protection Committee, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemic Influenza • National Aviation Medical Transport • National mass casualty Triage Tag System • Hospital mass casualty surge capability • Health aspects of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism Plan • Psychological aspects of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism Plan

District Disaster Management Groups

During the 2008–2009 reporting period 9% of DDMGs established formal research partnerships, with a further 13% indicating they had established informal research partnerships.



Research outcomes from these partnerships informed disaster management policy development and practice as follows:

Formal Partnerships:	
Gold Coast and Logan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A partnership between EMQ, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Geoscience Australia, Gold Coast City Council and DERM has established tsunami research for the Gold Coast, including GIS mapping and modelling, designed to provide advance intelligence of tsunami land or water impact. Information derived from this research will further inform the revision of district tsunami sub-plans.
Ipswich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich City Council participated in the south east region Floodwise Access Project, enabling council to expand the access to hydrological information for flood event management and creating a potential platform for the development of flood modelling algorithms to assist in event decision-making.
Informal Partnerships:	
Bundaberg and Maryborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMQ, with the Burnett Mary Regional Group (natural resource management) have been conducting research into the impact of climate change on the Fraser/Burnett Coast. This research is of practical benefit to planners and is being used to inform the current alternate patterns of development study in support of the proposed Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan.

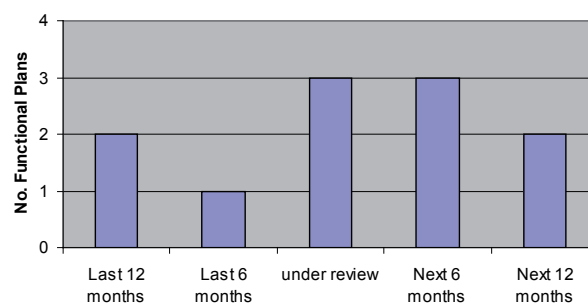
Element Two – Policy and Governance

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster management outcomes are achieved through the development and implementation of sound policy and effective corporate governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the disaster management system. Legislative requirements are supported by disaster management policies.

Agency functional roles and responsibilities

To provide for effective coordination of state-level capabilities in disaster management, the QDMA identifies a number of agencies responsible for the provision of specific disaster management services or support to communities and to the Queensland Government prior to, during and after disaster events.

Individual agency disaster management functions are identified on the basis of their core agency functions and their legislative and jurisdictional responsibilities. Disaster management functions are further outlined through the SDMP and individual agency functional plans.



For the 2008–2009 reporting period, nine SDMG member agencies (70%) indicated that they had developed and implemented a functional disaster management plan aimed at supporting Queensland’s disaster management preparedness.

Of the existing functional disaster management plans, 27% have undergone review within the last 12 months and a further 45% will be reviewed within the next 12 months.

Disaster events occurring during the reporting period, including the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and the Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill have further highlighted the importance of maintaining a whole-of-Government approach to disaster management. Continued work by high-level committees and research into common operating software will further enhance this capability. Interdepartmental consultation undertaken during the current review of the SDMP has provided further clarity on the different roles departments have in the management of varying hazards and events experienced in Queensland.

Disaster Management Policies and Procedures

During the 2008–2009 reporting period, SDMG member agencies established a number of new policies and procedures aimed at enhancing disaster management in line with agency functional plans. Of key note were new policies and procedures developed in the areas of pandemic planning and business continuity.

Pandemic Planning

Following notification by the World Health Organisation of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 on 24 April 2009, SDMG member agencies developed the *Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan 2009*, which was endorsed by the Premier of Queensland on 12 May 2009. The plan outlines government's arrangements and key strategies to prepare for, respond to and recover from an influenza pandemic in Queensland and details the strategic coordination arrangements between the Queensland Government, Australian Government, Australian states and territories and the Australian Local Government Association. The development of the *Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan 2009* is consistent with the *National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic* and the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza*.

In addition the *Pandemic Influenza: Guide for Queensland Government Agencies (June 2009)* provides a summary of the key response actions that the Queensland Government would consider during each pandemic influenza phase.

Following endorsement of the *Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan 2009*, member agencies have developed policies and procedures relating to influenza pandemic specific to their agency's roles and responsibilities. These include:

- The DEEDI *Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Information Handbook* provides policy and guidance on managing an H1N1 outbreak in the workplace relevant to the 'Contain' and 'Protect' phases of pandemic.
- The *Influenza Pandemic Plan* prepared by DIP better prepares staff to respond to an influenza pandemic, from both a community and a personal perspective.



- The *Pandemic Planning Guidelines for Transport Operators*, developed by DTMR in line with the *Transport Pandemic Influenza Plan 2009*, provides transport operators with a framework for developing individual business unit procedures appropriate for an influenza pandemic. The guidelines are designed as a framework to inform PPRR considerations by owners and operators of transport services and infrastructure.
- The DPW *H1N1 Pandemic Plan* forms an annexure to the department's *Business Continuity Plan* and is consistent with the coverage of the DPW *Disaster Management Functional Support Plan*. The pandemic plan provides guidance to DPW business units and regions on the current protocols regarding pandemic outbreaks. This includes planning and guidance on issues such as personal protective equipment; provision of procurement assistance to agencies; flu/vaccination clinic site selection and other general advice as relevant.
- The *Communities Social Support and Recovery Services Management Sub Plan* guides government and community planning for management of the social impacts of and recovery from a human influenza pandemic.
- The *JAG Pandemic Management Response Plan (May 2009)* prepares departmental employees for the potential threat of an influenza pandemic and provides the Board of Management / Crisis Management Team with a course of action to protect employees and provides for the continuation of essential services at each phase of a national pandemic alert.
- *Ministerial Directive 4/09 – Employment Arrangements in the Event of a Human Influenza Pandemic (May 2009)*, developed by JAG, prescribes the specific public sector employment conditions that apply in the case of disruption caused by the occurrence of a human influenza pandemic, once activated by a declaration of a public health emergency made by the Minister for Health under Section 319 of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Business Continuity

- The DET *Business Continuity Management Policy* enables the department to prepare for, respond to and recover from sudden or rapid events that threaten the achievement of the organisation's critical business functions. This policy mandates corporate business continuity planning for the department's critical infrastructure and services.
- DPW is currently undertaking a review of the department's *Business Continuity Plan* and associated policies following the release of the new draft *Business Continuity Standard AS/NZS 5050 2009*.
- The JAG *Business Continuity Planning Policy (February 2009)* aims to manage the immediate impacts of a business interruption, develop processes for the delivery of core services to the community before full service capacity resumes and assist business to resume to a pre-incident capacity where possible.

In addition, SDMG member agencies established a wide range of disaster management policies and procedures during the 2008–2009 reporting period, including:

- Draft disaster management group governance guidelines, which, once finalised, will assist disaster managers to comply with legislative requirements in line with the DM Act, and will provide legislative and policy guidance on corporate governance, including the roles and responsibilities of disaster management group members, committees and individuals involved in the QDMA. Draft guidelines have been produced for the SDMG and DDMGs, with LDMG governance guidelines forthcoming. The draft guidelines remain a work in progress and will be further reviewed to incorporate outcomes of the current DM Act review when available.
- The *Queensland Government Arrangements for Coordinating Public Information in a Crisis* developed by DPC facilitates coherent, whole-of-Government public information efforts in Queensland during a crisis. This is complemented by the development of the *Strategic Governance Arrangements during a Counter-Terrorism Emergency Policy*, which enhances Ministerial involvement, improves public information and allows for better integrated counter-terrorism arrangements within disaster management activities.
- DIP has developed a *Crisis Communications Plan* to outline the communication activities that are to occur upon activation of the department's Crisis Management Plan or in response to critical incidents.
- The *QPS Operational Procedures Manual* is a comprehensive manual of operational policies to assist and guide police officers in the application and enforcement of a wide range of legislation. Disaster management polices included in this manual are regularly reviewed for accuracy and amended as necessary to reflect new legislation and government policies.
- During 2008–2009, officers from the QPS Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch were involved in a range of disaster management working groups,

committees and other fora concerned with the review and development of state level disaster management policies and doctrine. These officers worked closely with EMQ on a number of projects, including the draft district operational planning guidelines and draft SDMG and DDMG governance guidelines. At a district level, DDCs are similarly engaged in the development of local disaster management doctrine, providing valuable operational insight into state level initiatives.

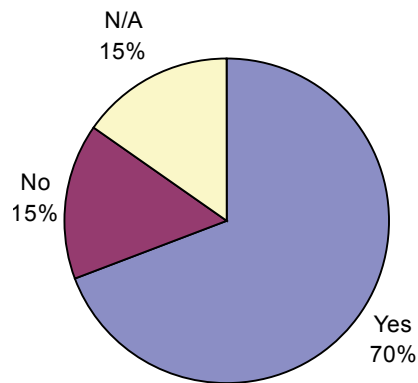
- DTMR has developed the *Transport Disaster Management Operations Manual*, detailing the functional roles and responsibilities of transport disaster management liaison officers, containing both procedural information and templates for use during the conduct of disaster planning, response and recovery. This manual complements the *Disaster Management Liaison Officer Reference Manual*, a reference guide for transport disaster management liaison officers.
- The *DTMR Critical Incident Management System* provides a strategic overview of the movement of personnel and resources across the state during the response and recovery phase of an event. The system was originally trialled during the north and central Queensland floods in January–February 2008 and was released during the monsoonal flooding event in January–February 2009.
- The *MSQ Marine Pollution Prevention and Response Training Policy* sanctions the delivery of MSQ's legislative and agreed commitments regarding the provision of training for people who will be involved in response to incidents of ship-sourced pollution (i.e. oil spill) and provides one part of a policy framework designed to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment from the adverse effects of ship-sourced pollution.
- The Queensland Rail (QR) *Limited Regional Freight Emergency Plan* outlines the regional freight response to emergency and disaster events across the state. QR Limited has also established a number of standards across the regions specific to QR Limited's sites, which address emergency and disaster management at a regional level through an all-hazards approach.
- The *QHealth Disaster and Emergency Management Arrangements* prescribe a consistent approach to internal QHealth emergency incident management and disaster response procedures. It includes a standard incident management system, emergency health operation centre, staff training framework and a QHealth disaster exercise program.
- EMQ has undertaken an SES Service Delivery Analysis, entailing the co-signature of agreements between the Queensland Government and local governments regarding the required functions and membership for each SES Group. The agreements enable EMQ to plan for the skills, training and equipment required by SES Groups to respond to localised and statewide emergencies and disasters.

Element Three – Disaster Risk Assessment

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster risk assessments are used to protect life and property and contribute to sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive disaster risk assessments are complete, relevant and updated regularly

SDMG Member Agencies

Of the 13 Queensland Government departments that comprise the membership of the SDMG, 70% have completed a functional risk assessment during the 2008–2009 reporting period.



Of the remaining member agencies, 15% have yet to complete a functional risk assessment and the remaining 15% are not required to, as their agency does not undertake a functional role within the QDMA.

Of the member agencies that completed a functional risk assessment during the reporting period, 89% indicated they have updated their agency functional plans accordingly.

Queensland Hazardscape

The first draft of Queensland’s hazardscape was presented to the SDMG in December 2008. The report provides an illustration of the natural hazards likely to occur in Queensland and potential interactions between the hazardous environment and the population, critical facilities, lifelines and land-use.

The hazardscape provides a foundation from which to generate a state risk register and to guide the targeting of mitigation and response planning initiatives. The current version focuses on Queensland’s threat from flood, storm tide, cyclone, severe storm, thunder storm, fire, landslide, earthquake and tsunami.

District Disaster Management Groups

Of the 23 DDMGs across Queensland, three have conducted a disaster risk assessment during 2008–2009 reporting period.

Some of the issues raised by DDMGs in regards to undertaking a risk assessment include:

- Risk assessments are completed by LDMGs and incorporated into LDMPs.
- District risk assessments are contained within the DDMP and cover a broad overview of the risks identified for the district.
- Individual agencies conduct functional risk assessments.
- DDMGs are responsible for ensuring LDMGs have suitable risk assessments in place for their area and should develop residual risk assessments accordingly.

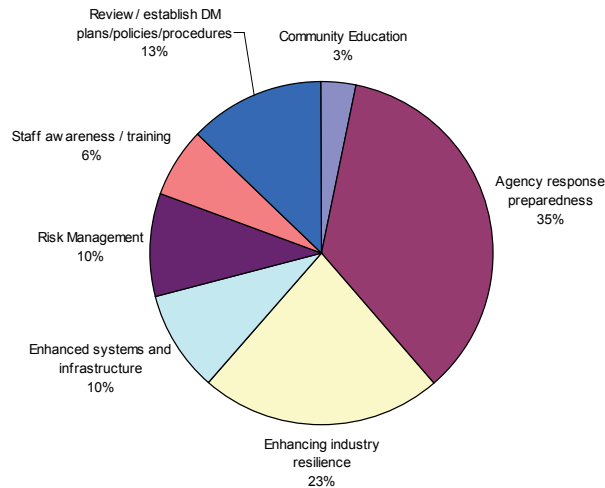
Element Four – Disaster Mitigation

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced risk and enhanced community resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation priorities are determined by evidence of risk assessments.

SDMG Member Agencies

Annual risk assessments conducted by SDMG member agencies assist in the development of agency disaster mitigation priorities, which are incorporated into agency functional plans as relevant.

The following diagram identifies the nature of disaster mitigation priorities established by SDMG member agencies for the 2008–2009 reporting period:



Of the 31 mitigation priorities identified, SDMG member agencies have achieved a total of 94% of the priorities, with the remaining 6% of priorities in progress.

District Disaster Management Groups

Whilst only three DDMGs have undertaken risk assessments during the 2008–2009 reporting period, the majority indicated they have achieved their established mitigation priorities, with only four DDMGs indicating these were either not completed or are in progress.

The majority of the mitigation priorities identified by DDMGs relate to community mitigation as relevant to the regional and shire councils within their disaster districts. It was also reported that:

- Individual member agencies of the DDMG undertake their own agency disaster mitigation in accordance with their functional risk assessments.
- Mitigation is a function of the LDMGs rather than DDMGs.
- DDMG ensures that LDMGs establish mitigation measures and examine residual risk passed to the DDMG from the LDMGs.

State Disaster Mitigation Committee

The SDMC, established by Cabinet in 1998, provides whole-of-Government focussed strategic advice on disaster mitigation issues to the SDMG and to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services.

The SDMC fosters mainstreaming of disaster mitigation across all levels of government in Queensland to reduce risk, damage and losses from disasters and to achieve safer, more sustainable communities and regions in economic, social and environmental terms. Its membership comprises senior officer representatives from each of the 13 Queensland Government departments, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and three local governments.

The SDMC met on three occasions during the 2008–2009 reporting period, in November 2008, February 2009 and June 2009.

Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee

The Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee (QTCCC) was established in 1995 resulting from a submission made to the Central Control Group, State Counter Disaster Organisation (now SDMG).

The role of the QTCCC is to provide advice to the SDMC and ultimately the SDMG on measures to mitigate the effects of TCs on Queensland communities. The main objectives of the QTCCC are:

- enhance community safety and prevention capability in relation to TCs
- contribute to the national, state and local TC disaster management agenda
- contribute to the Queensland Government's priority outcomes.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period the QTCCC met on two occasions, with its main focus being the conduct of 11 pre-season preparedness workshops across Queensland, occurring from October to December 2008.

The workshops were a cooperative partnership between DCS, DERM and BoM, providing participants with the latest information available on cyclones, storm, flood, storm tide preparedness and warning and response issues. The workshops encouraged participation from a broad range of stakeholders and provided a valuable opportunity to build partnerships, apply lessons learned and to identify improvements for better preparing communities in the future.

Queensland Flood Consultative Committee

The Queensland Flood Consultative Committee (QFCC) was formed on recommendation by the SDMC to improve the coordination of flood risk management activities in the state.

DCS and DERM provide lead agency support to this committee, which also comprises:

- DIP
- DTMR
- BoM
- LGAQ
- Office of Climate Change
- Insurance Council of Australia

The role of QFCC is to enhance community safety, mitigation and prevention capability across Queensland communities in relation to the impact of fresh water floods.

The QFCC convened on four occasions during the 2008–2009 reporting period; in August 2008, October 2008, January 2009 and June 2009, with the main focus being to:

- establish a State Flood Risk Management Policy
- identify the most suitable Queensland Government department to lead and take on the responsibilities for effectively addressing flood risk issues across the state.

In addition, work undertaken during this period focussed on an audit of roles and responsibilities across government for all aspects of flood water management.

Tropical Cyclone Storm Tide Warning Response Handbook (Eighth Edition)

During the 2008–2009 reporting period the eighth edition of the *Tropical Cyclone Storm Tide Warning – Response Handbook* (the Handbook) was reviewed and published in collaboration with the BoM, EMQ and DERM. The Handbook was prepared by the SDMG, under the authority of the DM Act; and the BoM, under the authority of the *Meteorology Act 1955*.

The Handbook details the Tropical Cyclone Storm Tide Warning – Response System in Queensland and supplements disaster district and local government disaster management plans relating to storm tides. It is restricted to key disaster management stakeholders and is not for distribution to the general public.

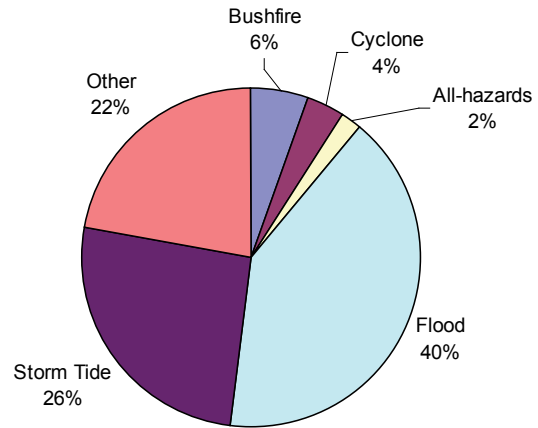
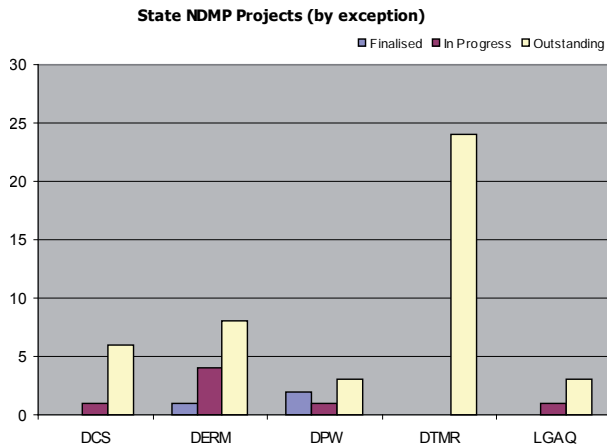
Although primarily prepared for tropical cyclone storm tides, other threats to Queensland coastal communities could include storm tides from other weather events, including east coast lows.

Natural Disaster Mitigation Program

The NDMP is a national program aimed at identifying and addressing natural disaster risk priorities across the nation.

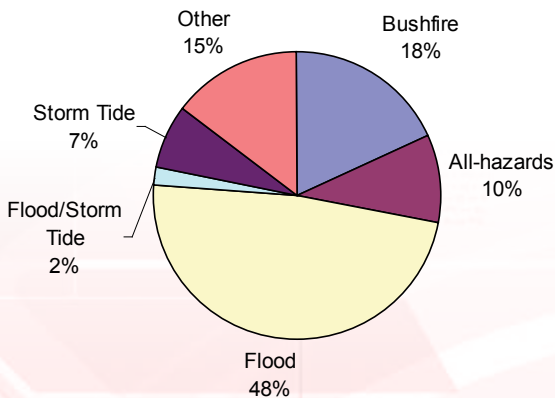
The types of projects recommended for this program include natural disaster risk management studies, storm tide studies, flood mitigation projects, bushfire mitigation projects and other related mitigation measures and activities that contribute to safer, sustainable communities, better able to withstand the effects of natural disaster.

This program is available to local agencies responsible for disaster management and disaster mitigation works and state and territory government agencies where the agency is the relevant responsible agency.

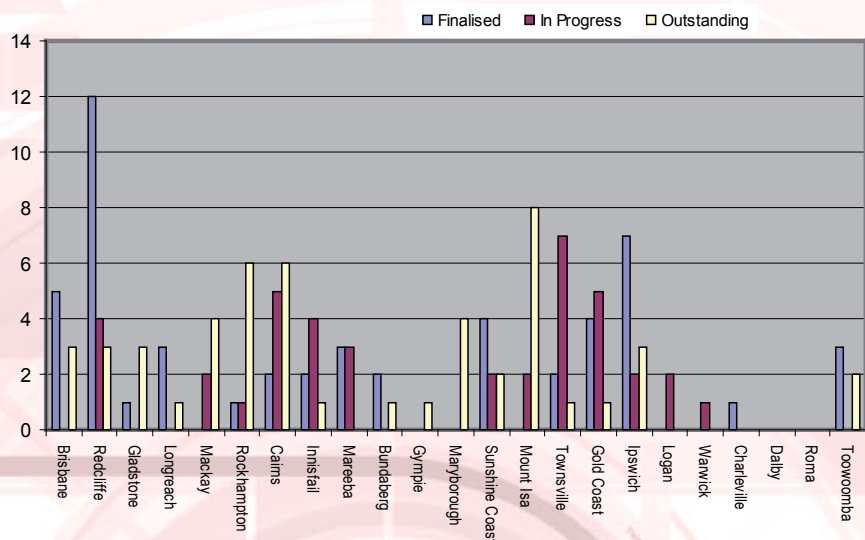


The majority of the 54 NDMP projects undertaken by SDMG member agencies were identified under the hazard category of Flood (40%), followed by Storm Tide studies (26%).

Of the 142 NDMP projects undertaken by disaster districts, the majority were identified under the hazard category of Flood (48%), followed by Bushfire (18%).



NDMP Projects by District



Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program

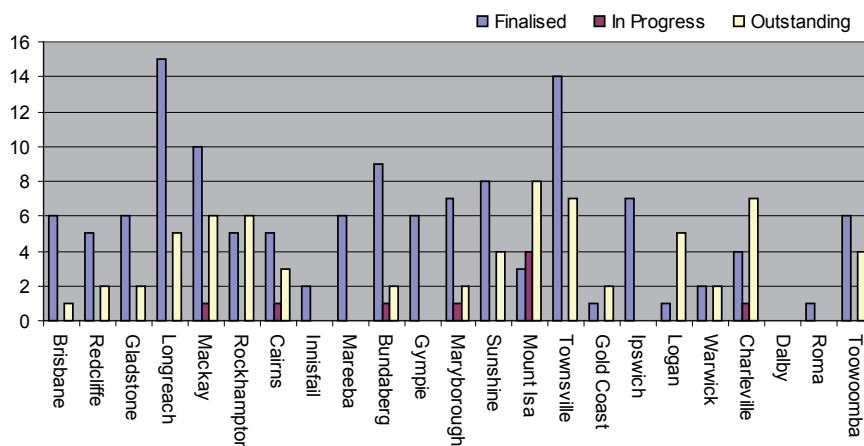
The Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program (NDRMSP) ceased as at 30 June 2005 and was amalgamated with the NDMP. The purpose of this program was to encourage state and local governments to undertake worthwhile risk management studies to identify analyse and evaluate risk from natural disasters.

State NDRMSP Projects

The status of the state-level NDRMSP projects is as follows:

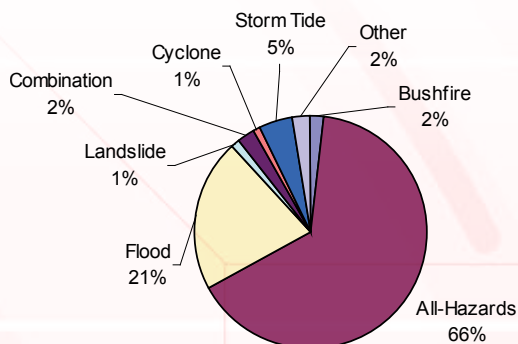
- DCS continues to progress the 'Assessment of Hervey Bay housing vulnerability to severe winds' study, originally due for completion in 2004.
- DERM continues to progress the 'Gulf of Carpentaria Tropical Cyclone, Surge and Wave Impacts' study, which is due for completion during 2010–2011.

NDRMSP Programs by District



Whilst projects may be marked outstanding for reasons such as delays with construction or consultants, it is important to note that EMQ continues to work closely with applicants to assist with the progression and finalisation of these projects in a timely manner.

Of the 209 identified NDRMSP projects undertaken at state and district level, the majority of studies to date have been focussed on the All-Hazards disaster category (66%), followed by Flood (21%).



Disaster Resilience Program

In its 2009 Budget the Australian Government announced funding of \$79.3 million over four years for the DRP. The program will consolidate existing programs, including the NDMP, Bushfire Mitigation Program (from 2010) and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. New governance arrangements for the DRP are being established in consultation with the LGAQ to ensure best outcomes for Queensland communities.

The DRP will target Queensland's unique natural hazard risk profile, with funding directed at mitigating the impacts of flood, storm tide and cyclone, severe storm and bushfire. Eligible state agencies and local governments will be able to apply for funds to undertake mitigation works and community awareness activities under the DRP.

Element Five – Disaster Preparedness

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create aware and prepared communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of community disaster awareness • Increased level of community disaster preparedness • Disaster management plans are in place at all levels of the disaster management system.

SDMG member agencies

During the 2008–2009 reporting period, SDMG member agencies participated in disaster management exercises and undertook a wide variety of initiatives aimed at increasing community awareness and preparedness for disaster events.

Below is a summary of key activities undertaken during the reporting period. Part Two – SDMG XO Report provides a comprehensive overview of disaster management exercises undertaken during the reporting period.

- From 14 to 16 October 2008 the SDMG participated in the multi-jurisdictional NCTC Exercise *Mercury 08*, which aimed to enhance national capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from multiple threats or acts of terrorism. The exercise allowed the SDMG to test the QDMA’s capabilities in a terrorist context in line with the *Queensland Counter-Terrorism Plan* and to test the activation of the State Crisis and Communication Centre, based on a virtual information exchange platform.
- SDMG participated in the COAG-sponsored pandemic influenza Exercise *Sustain 08* during November 2008, which examined the capacity of the QDMA to maintain social and economic functioning and to build community resilience during a prolonged pandemic influenza event.
- The draft *Queensland Tsunami Notification Protocol* has been established to clarify the roles of Queensland Government agencies, local government and other organisations in the dissemination of tsunami warnings to vulnerable communities. By establishing a clear communication strategy for tsunami warnings, the protocol ensures the appropriate arrangements are in place to educate the community on tsunami warning products and accompanying safety messages. The draft protocol was tested during Exercise *Ausnami* in June 2009, which evaluated the effectiveness of the QDMA in managing tsunami warnings at state level. Tsunami planning will be further indoctrinated by SDMG member agencies through the development of tsunami sub-plans during 2009-2010.
- QHealth and QAS participated in Emergo Exercises during the 2008–2009 reporting period, utilising the Emergo-Train instructional simulation system. The exercises tested the combined capabilities of these agencies and private providers in a real-time environment. QAS functional disaster management plans were reviewed and tested as a result of these exercises.
- During 2008–2009 Queensland Corrective Service, a division of DCS, conducted contingency tests with emergency services agencies, covering a range of scenarios including bomb, escape, escort emergency, external threat, fire, hostage, medical emergency, black riot and officer duress. In addition, a mass evacuation exercise was undertaken in October 2008 to identify possible actions based on two scenarios, with a view to forming a whole-of-agency response.

Mass Evacuation Planning

- Planning activities undertaken by the Brisbane DDMG in preparation for TC Hamish in March 2009 formed the catalyst and model for a statewide mass evacuation project being undertaken by member agencies at the request of the SDMG.
- The Building mass casualty surge capability in key hospitals initiative established by QHealth will better prepare and resource Queensland hospitals to manage the surge of mass casualty presentations.

Business Continuity Planning

- During 2008–2009 EIDI continued to develop and update a range of interactive online tools, templates and guidance models to assist small and medium businesses in the development of business continuity plans and to build resilience to disasters. The tools foster an all-hazards approach to disaster management, incorporating PPRR principles. In conjunction, workshops were held with business owners/operators to provide them step-by-step processes for business continuity planning and encourage them to take proactive responsibility in mitigating the impact of a disaster in line with EIDI’s disaster management preparedness strategies.
- The DPW Disaster Management Forum 2009 focussed on strategic business continuity and disaster management for DPW executive staff and external disaster management stakeholders. The forum promoted increased awareness of present and future strategic business continuity and disaster management issues, in line with the DPW *Business*

Continuity Plan and the Disaster Management Functional Support Plan.

- To further address business continuity issues within the QDMA, DPW and EMQ commenced a project to identify a whole-of-Government disaster management information system which aims to support intra and inter-agency incident and disaster management communications. It is intended the system will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency response coordination through a single secure, robust information management system and workflow.

Disaster Management Training

- QPS have developed a self-paced education product, providing fundamental disaster management training to district police officers. During the reporting period, 72 district police attended EMA training courses to assist in their professional development above the basic or fundamental disaster management training available within Queensland.
- QR Limited held Stakeholder Management Sessions with local businesses and emergency services, aimed at promoting greater understanding of QR Limited's operational environment and encouraging closer working relationships between QR Limited, local businesses and emergency services.
- MSQ coordinated Pollution Preparedness and Response Training involving officers from DERM, QFRS, Port Authorities and local governments. This training, which focuses mainly on the response and recovery components of disaster management, aims to adequately prepare those persons likely to be involved in response to incidents involving ship-sourced pollution, in line with the *Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan*.
- From October to December 2008 DTMR provided internal training for all regional and district transport disaster management liaison officers. In addition, agency-specific emergency awareness sessions were conducted throughout the year. Representatives from the transport partners participated in multi-agency briefing and training sessions and contributed to exercises as required.
- A total of 1835 staff from across government participated in the Introduction to Community Recovery training program delivered by Communities. The program identified and trained a pool of employees from across government to undertake the role of recovery workers, consistent with the *State Community Recovery Plan*. In addition, five Communities staff undertook specialist training through EMA during the reporting period.
- To provide a surge capability during protracted operations, EMQ Disaster Operations regularly conduct training sessions for EMQ and other DCS

staff assisting the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) during operational periods. These sessions alternate between the delivery of theoretical training and exercises, allowing participants to reinforce their learning in a hands-on environment. A number of training sessions planned during the reporting period were cancelled due to high operational activity over summer.

Disaster management plans and sub-plans.

- Extensive work has occurred during the reporting period to update and review existing disaster management plans at state, district and local levels. In particular, the SDMP has undergone extensive review by a working group of SDMG member agencies, with the new plan to be updated and finalised pending the completion of the current disaster management review.
- On release of the Australian Government Plan for the *Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas* (COMRECEPLAN) in February 2008, Queensland's reception arrangements were reviewed and upgraded, placing greater emphasis on clearly defining functional agency roles and responsibilities. Following consultation with key disaster management stakeholders, including the EMQ Senior Executive Team, the *Queensland Reception Plan* (QRECEPLAN) was approved by the Director-General, DCS in October 2008. The plan will undergo further revision on release of outcomes from the current Disaster Management Review.
- The *Transport Disaster Management Plan* was redrafted to reflect current disaster management arrangements. Further, the *Transport Disaster Management Operations Manual* (outlining roles and responsibilities of transport disaster management liaison officers) and the *Disaster Management Liaison Officer Reference Manual* (serving as a disaster management reference manual for transport disaster management liaison officers) were finalised and approved by DTMR.
- Communities reviewed District Recovery Plans for each of the 23 disaster districts. These plans identify preparedness and recovery responses for each district, ensuring they are prepared in the event of a disaster. The District Recovery Plans are consistent with the *State Community Recovery Plan*.

Other key preparedness initiatives undertaken during the reporting period include:

- The Queensland Government continues to support SES volunteer response capability through the provision of increased levels of equipment, personal protective clothing and vehicles in line with the 2006 Election Commitment *Safeguarding Cyclone Communities*.
- DCS continues to contribute to the development of the National Emergency Warning System (NEWS), which utilises SMS capability to provide early warnings of disaster to Queensland communities via address based land-lines and mobile telephones.
- Agencies continued to demonstrate their commitment to disaster management preparedness planning through senior officer representation on the SDCG.
- The newly established Biosecurity Queensland First Response Unit provides rapid response capability through a team of specialists who can be quickly deployed to establish operations at the local control centre. An *Emergency Management Unit Operational Manual* has been developed to further support this capability.
- The DEEDI EIDI has established two full-time positions, one to be located at each of the Northern and Southern directorates. The role of these officers include liaison with local tourism industry bodies and operations in all matters relating to tourism and tourists and includes PPRR issues for tourism operators in relation to disaster events. The officers will work in conjunction with designated DEEDI tourism officers who have been appointed in each of the EIDI regional centres.
- DCS implemented a volunteer portal, providing access to online learning, e-books, procedures and maps and a self service kiosk available by external access. Approximately 2,000 users have registered with the portal, including volunteers from Rural Fire Service, Local Ambulance Committees, SES and Emergency Service Cadets. In addition, the new SES Volunteer Portal was launched in May 2009, enabling SES volunteers' access to enhanced functionality and promoting greater communication across the SES.
- QFRS finalised the full delivery of Tactical Command Kits in June 2009, standardising its equipment and incident information management resources.
- EMQ commenced roll-out of Request for Assistance (RFA) Online, a system that coordinates SES tasking resulting from requests from assistance received from the public through sources such as the 132 500 telephone number. The system also manages SES deployments and monitors activities. Initially trialled in EMQ's Far Northern Region during 2007, RFA Online was successfully used in support of disaster response during the reporting period, including the Queensland Storms and Associated Flooding event in November 2008 and the monsoonal flooding event in north Queensland during early 2009.
- QHealth undertook a variety of initiatives aimed at the prevention, preparedness and response disaster management phases, including:
 - » building command, control and coordination capability across health services – aimed at enabling QHealth senior executives to operate effectively in the integrated disaster incident management system
 - » building capability to respond to pandemic influenza – aimed at achieving effective partnership agreements with health sector partners to protect and sustain the community during a pandemic
 - » building human-social service capability to support impacted communities – assisting the community and health sector partners by providing expert strategic advice in community and psychosocial disaster management planning, policies and standard operating procedures
 - » building an integrated, well-maintained disaster and major incident management system to respond to environmental health threats – engaging Environmental Health Services and Clinical and Statewide Services to effectively respond in the event of pandemic, chemical, biological and radiological emergencies and natural disasters/emergencies.

2008 Australian Safer Communities Awards

Sponsored by EMA in conjunction with Australian states and territories, the Australian Safer Communities Awards recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia.

SDMG member agencies were well represented in the 2008 awards, with a first place achievement under the category of 'State/Territory Government Agencies' and a highly commended under the category 'Projects of national significance or cross-jurisdictional'

'Red Alert' and 'Get Ready Kidna's' Disaster Education Resource for Young People and Children Project

2008 winners of the category 'State/Territory Government Agencies', the 'Red Alert' and 'Get Ready Kidna's' Disaster Education Resources for Young People and Children Project is a collaborative initiative of EMQ and LGAQ, aimed at developing age-appropriate resources on natural disasters for young people, providing them and their families with the knowledge of what to do before, during and after a disaster event to enhance individual and community safety.

Red Alert! Disaster Stories from young people across Queensland was developed by young people for their peers. This DVD and web-page contains a collection of fifteen two-minute stories from young people across Queensland, sharing their personal experiences with disasters affecting their local communities, from cyclones and bushfires to severe storms and floods.

Get Ready Kidna's is a fun, interactive education resource which recognises the roles children can play in raising disaster awareness and preparedness in their households and focuses on three key steps for disaster preparedness: what can happen; making an emergency plan with your family; and be prepared for emergencies.

The package features games, quizzes and activities for children aged between seven and eleven and is available on the DCS website www.emergency.qld.gov.au or via CD Rom.

Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuations and Shelter Guidelines

The Mitigation of the Adverse Impacts of Cyclone Steering Group, Queensland were honoured with a 'Highly Commended' achievement awarded in the category of 'Projects of national significance or cross-jurisdictional' for the establishment of the *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter Guidelines*.

DPW funded and lead the multiagency work in developing and producing the guidelines, which aim to provide local governments with a systematic and comprehensive methodology to undertake a risk study for assessing community evacuation and shelter needs within Queensland's cyclonic regions.



The Attorney-General, the Honourable Robert McClelland MP (second from left), presented the Australian Safer Communities Award to Rachael Uhr, Nicola Moore and Michael Dickinson (LGAQ/EMQ/LGAQ).

State Disaster Coordination Group

Established as a sub-committee under S. 48 of the DM Act, the SDCG is the implementation body of the SDMG, carrying out its strategic direction, focussing on preparedness, response and recovery issues and the delivery of state (and as relevant, federal) support to disaster affected communities.

The SDCG comprises a core group of senior officer representatives from those Queensland Government agencies identified as disaster management functional agencies; and a support group with representatives from Queensland and Australian Government agencies, GCOs and NGOs.

The main functions of the SDCG include:

- Examination and recommendation of measures to enable Queensland communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from events, including development and review of hazard-specific and function plans and arrangements in preparation for an event; and intelligence and scenario planning.
- Coordination of state and federal support to disaster affected communities, ensuring the relevant functional services and arrangements are provided on the ground during an event; building relationships with industry groups; developing Standing Offer Arrangements for resupply and developing business continuity plans.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period five ordinary SDCG meetings were held, with additional extraordinary meetings taking place around disaster events including the Queensland Storms and Associated Flooding (November 2008); North West Queensland Monsoonal Floods (January 2009) and Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

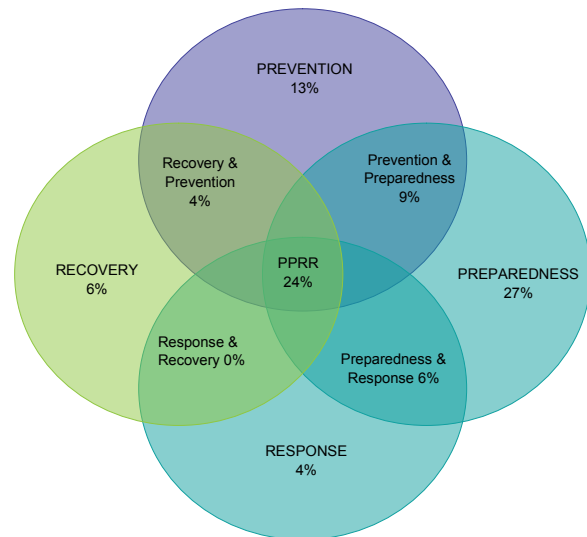
Key highlights for the SDCG during the reporting period include:

- extension of membership to recovery organisations, allowing for a more collaborative approach to response and recovery during disaster events
- establishment of a volunteer management sub-committee for donation management, established and chaired by Communities
- coordination of the initial planning for the Indigenous Communities and Marine Users tsunami workshops.

District Disaster Management Groups

In accordance with section 23(f) of the DM Act, DDMGs are responsible for ensuring the community is aware of ways to mitigate the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

The DM components targeted by community awareness activities undertaken by districts during the reporting period are detailed in the corresponding diagram.



Note: There is a 7% assumption that activities are carried out by the LDMGs.

Disaster Management Plans

A detailed summary of disaster management plans at state, district and local level is contained in Part Two – SDMG XO Report.

Element Six – Disaster Response

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of a disaster are minimised by effective and efficient disaster response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All disasters are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

The 2008–2009 reporting period was a busy season for disaster activity, with the SDCC initially activated in November 2008 for Queensland storms and associated flooding, then continuously activated from the month of January 2009 through to June 2009 for a range of disaster events.

The following provides an overview of SDMG member agency contribution to the response and recovery efforts for the season’s disaster events, detailing key response activities and identifying issues arising and notable achievements. A detailed summary of disaster activations for the reporting period is included in Part Three – Disaster Events.

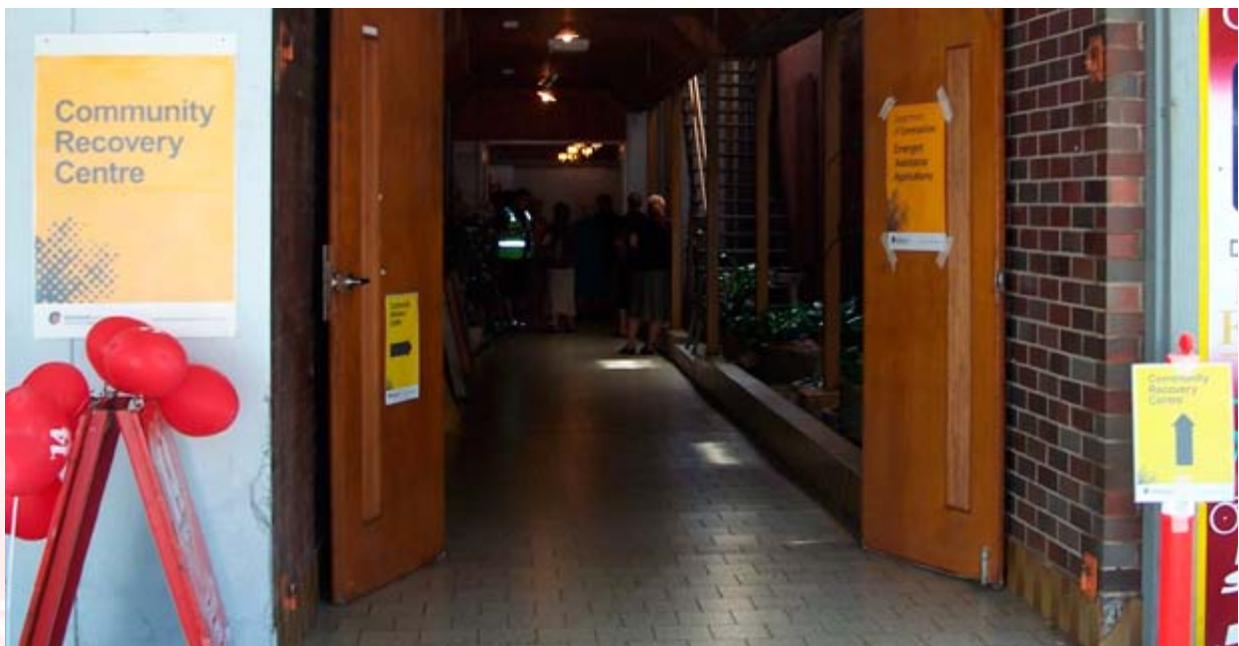
Queensland Storms and Associated Flooding – November 2008		
AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of NDRRA emergency assistance. Operational assistance through Incident Management Teams, Rapid Damage Assessment and Air Operations Specialists. Coordination of electricity disruptions and recovery of technology, resources and energy services. Damage assessments, clean-up and recovery of impacted areas and damaged Queensland Government built infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activation of the Brisbane DDMG and subsequent disaster declaration for landslides. Activation of the Crisis Communications Network Extraordinary SDMG meetings held in support of the event. Establishment and equipping of community evacuation centres and recovery centres. Provision of damage assessments for households, reconnection of mains power, advice regarding transport disruptions, road closures and delays.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful implementation of the Queensland Government Community Recovery Initiative greatly assisted recovery operations. Need for greater coordination for initial response deployments. Need for more consistent situation reporting standards, appropriate to the target audience. Identified training issues include greater emphasis on command, control and coordination within disaster management. Further consideration of appropriate tasking for key personnel involved with the event to ensure service delivery capabilities are maintained. Identified gap in state public safety legislation, with proposed changes to the <i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1986</i> put forward to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services. 	



The Australian Prime Minister; Premier of Queensland and Brisbane Lord Mayor (left to right) during recovery operations at ‘The Gap’, Brisbane. Photo courtesy of The Courier Mail

**North West Queensland Monsoonal Floods and TC Charlotte
January 2009 and TC Ellie and Ingham Floods – February 2009**

<p>AGENCY INVOLVEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of NDRRA emergency assistance. • Operational assistance through Incident Management Teams, Rapid Damage Assessment and Air Operations Specialists. • Provision of data sets for impacted areas including dams, stream flows and water quality. • Removal of problem wildlife (crocodiles, etc) resulting from the flooding. • Closures of impacted estates. • Provision of work camp (low security) prisoners to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts. • Transport partners provided local governments with engineering and engineering services resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended activation of the Mt Isa, Townsville and Cairns DDMGs, successfully coordinating support for a large area of the state, including large population centres isolated during this period. • Activation of the Crisis Communications Network. • Extraordinary SDMG meetings held in support of the event. • Establishment and equipping of community evacuation centres and recovery centres. • Activation of the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal. • Coordination of aircraft to move 36,500 tonnes of perishable food and jet fuel into Normanton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of barges to assist the exportation of goods from Cairns. • Staff resources provided to assist with recovery operations in Karumba and Normanton. • Damage assessments and repair of Queensland Government built infrastructure. • Transportation of essential resupplies north of Townsville. • Industry coordination of essential services. • Hospital care and logistic support provided at the local ambulance station for six in-patients over a seven-day period in Ingham.
<p>LESSONS LEARNED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended provision of recovery assistance to isolated communities in north west Queensland as a result of the widespread extent of the flooding. • Established networks between the DEEDI EIDI and the Gulf Savannah Development Incorporated, with a commitment made to conduct a 'Visioning the Gulf' workshop, funded through the Queensland Regional Development Initiative. • The need to enhance a provision of the DM Act relating to the power of a DDC to delegate functions. • Issues identified regarding the management of community expectation when large areas of the state are impacted in differing ways. 		



Community Recovery Centre established in Ingham during flooding in February 2009.

Tropical Cyclone Hamish – March 2009

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with GOCs for electricity disruptions and recovery of technology, resources and energy services. • Wave and storm tide monitoring conducted, with advice provided to the SDCC. • Camp ground evacuations occurring at locations such as the Whitsundays, Fraser Island and Inskip Point as the storm progressed southwards down the coast of Queensland. • Activation of local and district disaster management arrangements from Cairns to Brisbane in preparation for the potential impact of TC Hamish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key SDCG members, led by the Brisbane DDC, prepared on behalf of the SDMG a mass evacuation reception plan in anticipation of several thousands of persons potentially being evacuated from the north coast due to the impact of storm surge. The planning will now form the basis of broader work on mass evacuation being developed at the direction of the SDMG. • Provision of information to key stakeholders within the QDMA regarding airport, rail, road and sea port closures and openings. • Provision of people resources to coordination centres to analyse the potential impact of TC Hamish and to activate evacuation plans for the Hervey Bay area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a train and crew to Maryborough in preparation of possible evacuation of Harvey Bay residents to Brisbane. • Operational assistance through provision of Urban Search and Rescue Response Teams, Swift Water Rescue and the State Incident Management Team. • Provision of medical mobile task-force to TC threatened regions. • Evacuation of Yeppoon hospital.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An identified gap in mass evacuation planning resulted in the development of a suitable plan in a limited timeframe. • Issues identified around diminished support for the continued monitoring of the remnants of TC Hamish nearing the end of the event, due to the shift of focus on response and recovery efforts to the Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill incident which had resulted from this event. 		



TC Hamish – NASA image courtesy the MODIS Rapid Response Team at NASA GSFC

Queensland Government
 State Disaster Management Group
 Queensland State Emergency Service
 Queensland Police
 Queensland Fire and Rescue
 Queensland Health
 Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
 Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
 Queensland Department of Education, Science and Training
 Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
 Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Justice
 Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Equal Opportunity
 Queensland Department of Energy and Water Supply
 Queensland Department of Finance and Enterprise
 Queensland Department of Housing and Community Development
 Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Transport
 Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Environment
 Queensland Department of Parks and Recreation
 Queensland Department of Public Safety
 Queensland Department of Regulation and Fair Trading
 Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
 Queensland Department of Small Business and Enterprise
 Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
 Queensland Department of Work and Safety
 Queensland Department of Youth, Child Protection and Offender Services
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 Queensland Department of Regulation and Fair Trading
 Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
 Queensland Department of Small Business and Enterprise
 Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
 Queensland Department of Work and Safety
 Queensland Department of Youth, Child Protection and Offender Services
 Queensland Department of Justice
 Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning and Infrastructure

Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill – March 2009

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of QAS Special Operations to the on-board emergency response and medical support facilities for Moreton Island and other Sunshine Coast areas affected by the event. • Operational assistance through provision of Incident Management Teams. • Significant coordinated effort to minimise environmental and economic impacts. • Chief Inspector Explosives review of ammonium nitrate cargo through Health Safety and Health Services. • Engagement of the fishing sector through the Queensland Seafood Industry Association to assess the impact on the industry, seafood sampling and advertising to build consumer confidence in Queensland's seafood. • Environmental response and recovery. • Incident Response Centers established at Pinkenba and Moreton Island. • Wildlife recovery. • Campground closures and evacuations in affected areas. • Evidence collection undertaken for prosecution purposes. • Provision of funding to a whole-of-Government tourism promotion campaign to assist recovery of the regional community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A disaster declaration was made by the Premier of Queensland for this event and was extended on a number of occasions. • Activation of the Crisis Communications Network. • Assistance provided by SES volunteers and agency staff for manual clean-up of affected shorelines. • Procurement of a range of materials and personal protective equipment required for clean-up and recovery of the area. • Supply of 17 Qfleet vehicles to assist with the response. • Engagement of NGOs to assist with the event response. • Provision of technical expertise in relation to oil clean-up techniques, cost recovery documentation / requirements, legal processes for liability and criminal prosecution. Engagement of agencies to provide logistical support given the magnitude and complexity of the event (over 2,500 persons involved in clean-up efforts), including coordination of accommodation, ferries and other resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of independent consultants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » determine timeframe for cessation of recovery efforts » advise the effectiveness of recovery efforts » provide other environmental advice » review effectiveness of QDMA integrating with the threat specific oil contingency plan developed by DTMR » conduct an independent Scientific Advisory Panel to provide strategic environmental advice – an Australian first. • Engagement of the Royal Australian Navy to locate the 31 shipping containers of ammonium nitrate lost overboard in the event. • Coordination of the handling of the Pacific Adventurer, in terms of providing a place of refuge and minimising potential safety risks, allowing emergency services to respond to various potential hazards. • Provision of work camp (low security) prisoners to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a number of appropriately trained personnel available to be operationally deployed during a large-scale event. • Identified need for the provision of appropriate logistical support for deployed personnel. • Need for greater coordination of communications to all personnel involved in the response. • Identification of gaps within IT requirements and capabilities across agencies. • Need to strengthen the protocols around disaster declarations to ensure that information about the declaration is provided to DDCs. • Protocols regarding passage of information between SDCC and DDC's need to be further developed. • Identification of some issues associated with the integration the State Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan into the QDMA. 		

Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Fraser Coast Flooding – April 2009

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of NDRRA emergency assistance. • Deployment of resources to support relief operations. • Damage assessments and clean-up and recovery of impacted areas and damaged Queensland Government built infrastructure.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of an outreach community recovery service to affected persons in the area.

South-East Queensland Low – May 2009

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of NDRRA emergency assistance. • Deployment of resources to support relief operations. • Activation of the Crisis Communications Network. • Damage assessments and clean-up and recovery of impacted areas and damaged Queensland Government built infrastructure.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of an outreach community recovery service to affected persons in the area.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – Ongoing

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement at district level between DDMG and QHealth District Managers to support their preparations and event response. • Referral pathways negotiated to support coordinated provision of personal support to people in isolation or home quarantine. • Border assessments undertaken. • Business continuity arrangements established across government to ensure continued service delivery. Activation of the QHealth State Health Emergency Coordination Centre (SHECC). • Provision of resources and support to the SHECC. • Participation on the National Pandemic Emergency Committee. • Planning and development of guidelines for the establishment of flu clinics and potential mass vaccination centres. • Industry liaison to reduce overseas market disruptions and food chain issues during the pandemic outbreak. Procurement of personal protective equipment for non-medical workplaces and storage of medical ventilators. • Development of agency sub-plans to the <i>Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan 2009</i> and business continuity plans. • Support provided to set down of passengers of the Pacific Dawn and Pacific Princess cruise ships to mitigate containment efforts.
LESSONS LEARNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As this event is still ongoing at the time of this report, key achievements and lessons learned have yet to be formally documented.

SDCC 24/7 Watch Desk Capability

From July 2008 the SDCC moved to 24/7 operations and created six Watch Desk Officer (WDO) positions to assist this capability. The newly appointed WDOs participated in an intensive two-week induction session covering all aspects of the QDMA; emergency risk management and SDCC standard operating procedures. Participants were also required to take an active role in a number of simulation exercises, based on real events.

Queensland Emergency Operations Complex

The DCS Queensland Combined Emergency Operations Complex (QEOC) project progressed considerably during the 2008–2009 reporting period. Building construction commenced in June 2009 and is expected to be completed by December 2010, with a full commissioning planned for June 2011.

Once completed, QEOC will allow for future expansion of emergency services and will provide greater whole-of-Government disaster management support through state-of-the-art integrated communications and emergency operations centres, incorporating the SDCC and the State Operations Coordination Centre.

Telephone 132 500

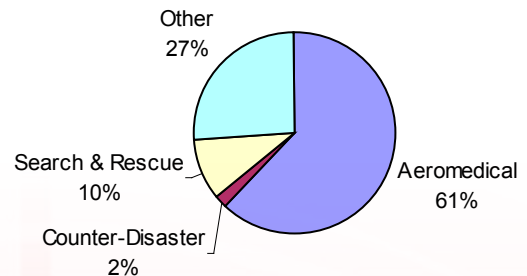
The national SES 132 500 telephone number is the primary point of contact for flood and storm emergencies in Queensland. This telephone number provides coordinated and prioritised response by the SES to the community and is invaluable in supporting Queenslanders affected by natural disaster. The communications infrastructure utilised directs calls to the appropriate SES unit or other agencies as relevant and provides a coordinated overview of caller demand, allowing for identification and management of resource allocation and prioritisation. Calls placed to the 132 500 telephone number in Queensland are directed to the Queensland Government call centre – Smart Service Queensland (SSQ), with the exception of 180 suburbs within the Brisbane metropolitan area, which are directed to the Brisbane City Council Call Centre.

A total of 53,120 telephone calls were made to the 132 500 telephone number during the 2008–2009 reporting period, of which 43,628 were managed successfully. Of the 18% of calls that were not successfully managed, reasons include receipt of a busy signal; call's being disconnected from the user's end or not answered by call centre staff.

EMQ Helicopter Rescue

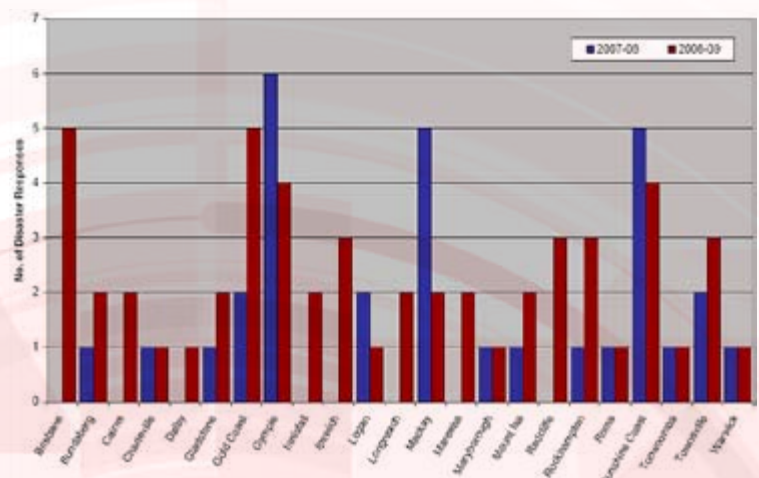
During the 2008–2009 reporting period EMQ Helicopter Rescue provided a total of 2,873 hours of operation.

The majority of these (61%) were for the provision of aeromedical services, with 2% assisting Counter-Disaster activities. Activities under the category of 'other' included training, charter, familiarisation/safety presentation, law enforcement, maintenance/ferry, police, public relations and the provision of support to other government agencies.



District Disaster Management Groups

Each of the 23 DDMGs were activated during 2008–2009 for the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 event, participating in SDMG teleconferences in order to ensure LDMGs within the disaster districts were implementing the necessary prevention strategies and ensuring preparedness. DDMGs were required to meet with LDMGs to further develop local government pandemic plans to identify suitable facilities for influenza clinics, inform resource requirements and provide logistical support.



Element Seven – Disaster Relief and Recovery

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved functions of communities following a disaster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief and recovery agencies are properly integrated into disaster management arrangements.

Disaster Management Alliance

The Disaster Management Alliance (DM Alliance) is a formal partnership established between DCS and the LGAQ, representing Queensland's local governments. The objective of the DM Alliance is to increase disaster management capacity and capability at the local level.

The partnership is overseen by the DM Alliance Board, which provides direction to the Project Officer and considers the broader disaster management issues relating to local government. Current Board Members are:

- Mr Jim McGowan, Director-General, DCS
- Mr Frank Pagano, Executive Director, EMQ
- Mr Gary Mahon, Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Executive Services, DCS
- Mr Greg Hallam, Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ
- Mr Greg Hoffman, Director, Policy and Representation, LGAQ
- Ms Simone Talbot, Manager, Roads, Transport and Infrastructure, LGAQ.

During 2008–2009, continued engagement with the DM Alliance has ensured that local governments continue to improve their capability to manage disaster events. The LGAQ Conference held in June 2009 highlighted achievements and attracted almost 120 delegates from 52 councils across Queensland.

The DM Alliance participates in debriefs and regularly reviews the best methods of facilitating support to councils. As work continues into the implementation of automated processes at local government level, EMQ is working to ensure interoperability is achieved through district disaster coordination centres and the SDCC.

SDMG Member Agencies

During the 2008–2009 reporting period, SDMG member agencies have established a number of formal and informal partnerships to further enhance relief and recovery capability within the QDMA.

The following table provides an overview of partnerships established between the Queensland Government and other organisations during this period.

Established Partnership	Agency Type	Service Provided
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between agencies including Communities / QHealth / Lifeline Community Care / Australian Red Cross (Queensland) / The Salvation Army / St Vincent de Paul / Centrelink / FaHCSIA / Adventist Development and Relief Agency / DET / DEEDI	Queensland Government / Australian Government / NGOs	MoU signatories provide a range of recovery and post recovery services to affected communities.
DEEDI / Energex / Powerlink Queensland / Ergon Energy	Queensland Government / GOCs	This partnership allows coordination of GOCs as operational entities, providing information for use within the QDMA.
DEEDI / BP / Shell / Caltex	Queensland Government / NGOs	Information provided by oil companies regarding fuel shortages is reviewed by DEEDI and considered within the QDMA if and when further assistance is required.
DEEDI / gas companies	Queensland Government / NGOs	Information provided by gas companies regarding potential gas shortages is reviewed by DEEDI and considered within the QDMA under which further assistance or action may be required.

Established Partnership	Agency Type	Service Provided
DEEDI / mining and explosives companies	Queensland Government / NGOs	Information provided by companies on potential mining and explosives safety issues is reviewed by DEEDI and applied within the QDMA if and when further assistance / intervention is required.
DERM / Forestry Plantations Queensland	Queensland Government / Government-Owned Business	Allows the coordination of planning for controlled burns in adjacent estates.
QHealth / Australian Health Protection Committee	Queensland Government / Australian Government	Aligns the Australian Government and state/territory government health jurisdictions to build the national health response capability to critical incidents and disaster events.
QHealth / QAS / St Johns Ambulance	Queensland Government / NGO	Coordinated planning for resource and response coordination during mass casualty events.
QHealth / Australian Federal Police	Queensland Government / Australian Government	Disaster victim identification capability in mass casualty events.
QHealth / Communities / various community based services	Queensland Government / NGOs	Fosters the development of coordinated disaster response to minimise psychological impact and facilitate community recovery, increasing the availability of training and professional staff development.
DIP / EMA	Queensland Government / Australian Government	The NDRRA provides financial assistance to local governments to restore non-insured public assets. During the 2008–2009 reporting period, grant assistance totalling \$193.4 million was paid to local governments for the restoration of public assets caused by activated natural disaster events occurring during 2008–2009 or in previous years, including TCs Larry (2005) and Monica (2006).
QPS / Australian Red Cross (Queensland) / Telstra / Energex	Queensland Government / NGOs	Support provided for the inclusion of relief and recovery organisations as members and advisors to DDMGs.
DPC / Australian Red Cross (Queensland)	Queensland Government / NGO	Established partnerships with the Australian Red Cross (Queensland) assists the government's appeal process, drawing on the organisation's expertise in providing support to individuals and families in distress and providing access to their regional network of members and volunteers located throughout the state.
DCS / Australian Government and other state/territory governments	Whole-of-Government	Contributing to the review of the 2007 NDRRA Determination, as required by the COAG National Disaster Arrangements Working Group (NDAWG)
DCS (QAS) / St John's Ambulance	Queensland Government / NGO	Undertake combined planning and exercises under the NCTC terrorism arrangements to provide support to QAS at medical emergencies or disasters.
DTMR / QR Limited	Queensland Government / GOC	Strong working relationships between DTMR and QR Limited enables effective and timely support to disaster events, best demonstrated during the TC Hamish in March 2009, where QR Limited commenced planning well before an official request was received, resulting in timely response to SDCC requests.

In addition, various interdepartmental partnerships have been established to further disaster management relief and recovery policies and processes, allowing for a more collaborative, whole-of-Government approach. These include:

Established Partnership	Agency Type	Service Provided
Queensland Government Community Recovery Initiative	All Queensland Government Departments with personnel employed under the provisions of the <i>Public Service Act 2008</i>	The Director-General, Department of Communities has received support from CEOs of Queensland Government departments to make available public sector employees, to be trained and deployed to assist recovery activities. As of 30 June 2009, a total of 1357 personnel from across government have been deployed to undertake community recovery activities.
DPW / Communities	Queensland Government	The departments of DPW and Communities are working collaboratively to review structural assistance requirements under the personal hardship and distress scheme and to contribute to the development of Recovery Centre Guidelines, through development of establishment criteria.
DCS (QAS) / QHealth	Queensland Government	Through QAS, DCS and QHealth undertake combined planning and exercises under the NCTC arrangements to provide a seamless medical interface between pre-hospital and hospital care.
DPW / QHealth	Queensland Government	DPW provided QHealth with strategic functional advice relating to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, in particular planning for mass vaccination centres, flu clinics and staging facilities. For this event, SSQ provided call centre assistance as part of 13Health.
EMQ Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) / QAS	Queensland Government	Establishment of the first QAS Community First Responder group 'on the water' in Queensland at VMR Jacobs Well, enhancing first responder capabilities for communities surrounding Jacobs Well and Broadwater and improving medical response for users of the adjacent waterways.

Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal

The Premier of Queensland's Disaster Relief Appeal allows the soliciting and accepting of gifts of money from the general public, industry and governments of Australia for the purpose of relieving suffering and distress suffered by the residents of Queensland, other Australian states and territories and developing countries in the South Pacific.

The Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal was activated on two occasions during 2008–2009 to assist people affected by disaster events. On 18 November 2008 the Premier launched the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal to assist those affected by the severe storms that had struck south and central Queensland, raising \$1.748 million. On 6 February 2009 a second appeal was launched in response to the monsoonal flooding and TCs Charlotte and Ellie event, with donations totalling \$8.384 million.

In both instances, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Westpac, National Australia Bank, ANZ Bank, Bank of

Queensland and Suncorp agreed to act as collection agents and accept donations to the appeals. Donations were also accepted via online banking or by calling the SSQ call centre.

The Australia Red Cross (Queensland) kindly agreed to manage the disbursement of the donated funds on behalf of the Queensland Government, receiving a total of 868 applications for assistance against the first appeal, making payments on 740 applications and disbursing all of the donated funds.

In relation to the second appeal, to date, over \$7,916,250 has been disbursed among 2095 individuals and families who applied for assistance from the appeal. Payment amounts range from \$200 to \$10,000 depending on the extent of the damage suffered by the applicant and their capacity to recover.

The costs associated with the administration of the appeals are met from the DPC operating budget to ensure that all the donated funds are applied directly to their intended purpose of assisting flood and storm victims.

District Disaster Management Groups

Relief and recovery agencies are integrated into the QDMA through the District Disaster Community Recovery Sub-Committees, which coordinate community recovery services on behalf of the DDMG.

In some instances, it is necessary for DDMGs to establish partnerships with other agencies to assist in relief and recovery arrangements including charities and DDMG advisors.

DDMG	Partnership Agency	Agency Type	Service Provided
Gympie, Bundaberg, Mount Isa, Sunshine Coast, Maryborough,	Building Services Authority	Government Statutory Authority	Advice on building recovery and reconstruction (including building inspections, insurance and compliance).
Charleville, Roma, Redcliffe, Mount Isa, Brisbane, Maryborough, Warwick, Gold Coast, Mackay	Australian Red Cross (Queensland)	NGO	Evacuation management operations, control and documentation of evacuation centres and evacuation and recovery centre activations.
Dalby	Lions Club	NGO	Emergency welfare capabilities identified.
Mount Isa	Mount Isa Chamber of Commerce	NGO	Utilising their forums to discuss resupply and business continuity with members.
Mount Isa	The Salvation Army Flying Padre and Outback Services	NGO	Used to conduct welfare visits to remote isolated properties in the district.
Gladstone	Lifeline Community Care	NGO	Provided recovery operations assistance following the Baralaba Storm.
Longreach	Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint Operations Support Staff (JOSS)	Australian Government	ADF JOSS agreed to participate in DDMG business as an advisor.
Gold Coast	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)	NGO	Assist with animal management.
Mackay	Mackay Whitsunday Regional Managers Coordination Network	Queensland Government	Assistance with resources (contacts and networks).

Wildlife Response Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill



When news came through of an oil spill in Moreton Bay in March 2009, one of the immediate concerns was the impact on the pristine marine, island and beach environments. Of particular concern was the impact it would have on local wildlife.

Oil spills are well known for causing large numbers of deaths in birds and sea life. DERM, with assistance from the RSPCA, Queensland Wader Study Group, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, SeaWorld, Taronga Zoo and Australian Zoo, established a recovery centre at Lytton and collection points at surf clubs on the Sunshine Coast. Rangers also worked with Wader Study Group volunteers on Moreton Island and other affected areas to observe bird and sea life.

Of the more than 20,000 birds observed near the oiled beaches, only approximately 100 (less than 1%) were found to have had contact with the oil. The birds that required cleaning were taken to the Lytton wildlife care centre, where they were washed and treated by trained wildlife experts, with international experience in caring for oiled wildlife, with assistance by staff from the Taronga Zoo. Once the birds were ready for release they were transferred to a specially designed long term care facility at the department's David Fleay's Wildlife Park. This was to prevent secondary oiling whilst there was still oil to their resident beaches.

In May 2009 13 pelicans were released by David Fleay's back home to Moreton Island and back into the wild.

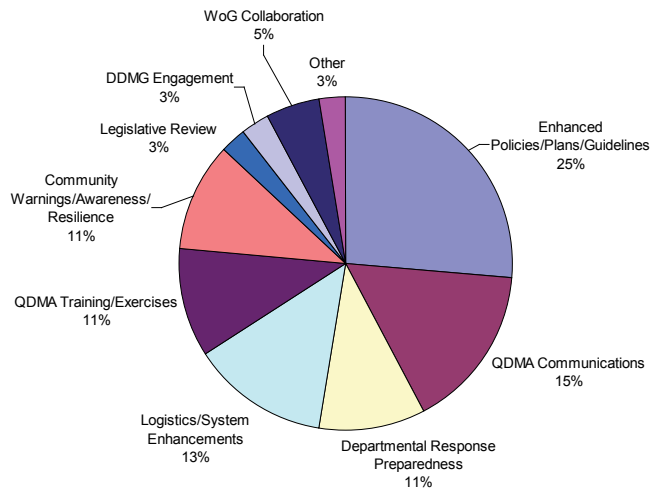
Element Eight – Post-Disaster Assessment

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-disaster assessment strengthens Queensland’s disaster management capability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learnt from disaster events and disaster management exercises are embedded into disaster management planning.

SDMG Member Agencies

The top three learnings identified by SDMG member agencies from disaster events and / or disaster management exercises held during the 2008–2009 reporting period were as follows:

1. Enhancement of disaster management policies, plans and/or guidelines (25%).
2. Enhancement of QDMA communications (15%).
3. Disaster management logistics / system enhancements (13%).

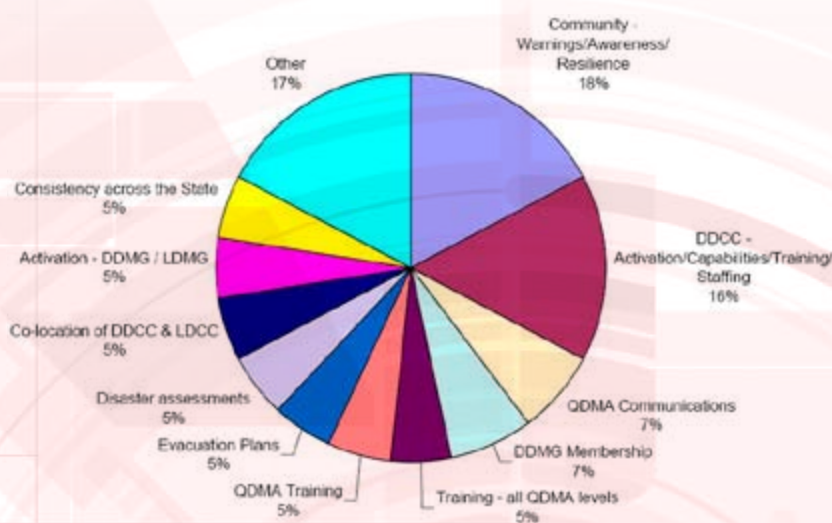


Post-disaster learnings inform the development of disaster management mitigation priorities for the coming year and are incorporated into functional agency disaster management sub-plans as relevant.

District Disaster Management Groups

The top three learnings identified by DDMGs from disaster events and / or disaster management exercises held during the reporting period were:

1. Improved community warnings/awareness and resilience (18%).
2. Learnings specific to the DDMG (Other – 17%).
3. DDCC enhancements including activation procedures/capabilities, training and staffing (16%).



PART TWO – SDMG EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

XO Function A – Disaster Management Planning

Objective:	Key Performance Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the State Disaster Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State, District and Local Disaster Management Plans are prepared, exercised and reviewed annually. In addition, ensure any operations are debriefed and lessons are identified.

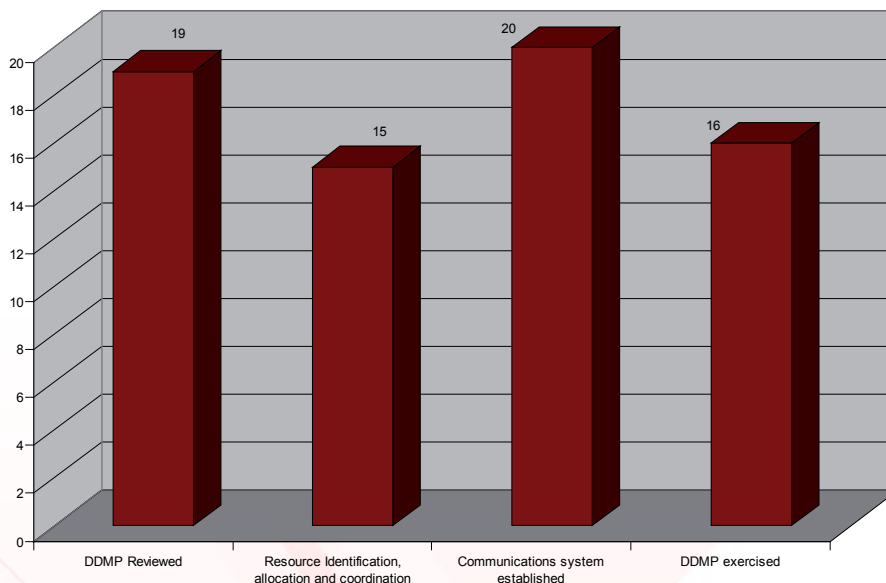
State Disaster Management Plan

A review of the SDMP is currently being coordinated by a sub-committee of the SDCG. A draft of the revised plan has been prepared and is on hold awaiting the outcome of the current disaster management review.

District Disaster Management Plans

For the 2008–2009 reporting period, major amendments to DDMPs incorporated:

- local government boundary changes following amalgamations
- operational improvements, in terms of plan activations and operations
- ensuring the plan complies with legislative requirements and integrates with the SDMP.



Local Disaster Management Plans

Following the March 2008 Local Government Reform, local governments were asked to review all plans within 12 months of amalgamation, to ensure they met the local community disaster management needs. In addition, local governments were requested to develop a single LDMP for the new local government area within two years of amalgamation.

Of the 74 local governments in Queensland, 49% (36) reviewed their LDMP during the 2008–2009 reporting period.

XO Function B – DDMG and LDMG Governance

Function::	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the DDMGs and the LDMGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure disaster management groups submit an annual report covering their disaster management activities and ensuring they follow good governance principles.

Corporate Governance – District Disaster Management Groups

In accordance with the DM Act, DDMGs are required to meet a number of corporate governance requirements. These include:

- Section 39 - disaster management groups must hold meetings at least once in every six months.
- Section 40 - quorum is the number equal to one-half of its members for the time being holding office plus one or if one-half of its members for the time being holding office is not a whole number, the next highest whole number.
- Section 43 - disaster management groups must keep minutes of its meetings.
- Section 44 - SDMG must prepare and give the Minister of Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services a written report about disaster management in the state. DDMGs contribute to the SDMG Annual Report by providing a DDMG Annual Report in accordance with the functions outlined under s. 23(i), whereby DDMGs are required to provide reports and make recommendations to the SDMG about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations in the district.

DDMG	No. of Ordinary Meetings held (2008-2009)	No. of Extra – Ordinary Meetings held (2008-2009)	DDMG Quorum ¹	No. of Meetings Quorate	Quorum achieved % of the time	Minutes Kept %	Annual Report Submitted (2008-2009)	Corporate Governance Legislative Requirements achieved (Yes/No)
Brisbane	2	6	10	5	62.5	100	Yes	Yes
Bundaberg	3	2	11	5	100	100	Yes	Yes
Cairns	7	2	16	0	0	100	Yes	No ²
Charleville	2	0	8	2	100	100	Yes	Yes
Dalby	2	0	12	2	100	100	Yes	Yes
Gladstone	5	1	8	6	100	100	Yes	Yes
Gold Coast	6	0	10	6	100	100	Yes	Yes
Gympie	2	2	16	1	25	100	Yes	No ³
Innisfail	7	1	8	8	87.5	100	Yes	Yes
Ipswich	4	1	10	4	80	100	Yes	Yes
Logan	4	0	10	4	100	100	Yes	Yes
Longreach	2	0	9	2	100	100	Yes	Yes
Mackay	8	0	10	8	100	100	Yes	Yes
Mareeba	4	0	10	3	75	100	Yes	Yes
Maryborough	3	3	10	4	66.6	100	Yes	Yes
Mount Isa	2	2	10	2	50	100	Yes	Yes
Redcliffe	2	1	11	3	100	100	Yes	Yes
Rockhampton	2	2	8	2	50	50	Yes	Yes
Roma	2	0	6	2	100	100	Yes	Yes
Sunshine Coast	5	2	12	5	71.4	100	Yes	Yes
Toowoomba	5	0	8	5	100	100	Yes	Yes
Townsville	8	0	9	8	100	100	Yes	Yes
Warwick	2	1	8	3	100	66.6	Yes	Yes

¹ DDMG Quorum number based on DDMG Membership requirements provided to SDMG XO in March 2009

² Cairns DDMG was deemed not to meet legislative requirements due to high number of members required to meet quorum (15 local governments + 15 other agencies) and member competing priorities when meetings were being held.

³ Gympie DDMG was deemed not to meet legislative requirements due to high number of members required to meet quorum (3 local governments + 27 other agencies) and member competing priorities when meetings were being held.

Local Disaster Management Group Meeting Governance

The 2008–2009 DDMG Annual Report indicates 43 of the 74 LDMGs met their legislated meeting governance requirements for the reporting period; i.e. meetings were held once in every six months, meeting minutes kept and quorum achieved.

Whilst a further 11 LDMGs indicated they had met at least once during the reporting period, they are deemed to be non-compliant as they did not fulfil the requirement to meet at least once in every six months.

The remaining 20 LDMGs indicated they had not met during the reporting period.

XO Function C – State and Commonwealth Arrangements

Function::	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish and maintain arrangements between the State and Commonwealth about matters relating to effective disaster management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements are established through a national approach to disaster management across the three levels of government: Australian Government, State Government and Local Government.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period SDMG member agencies continued to establish and maintain relationships with Australian Government through a variety of initiatives, including:

- Contributing to the review of Australian Government all-hazard and threat specific plans.
- Maintaining the link between the QDMA (coordinated through the SDCC) and EMA on state and national policy determinations.
- Contributing to the agenda for national forums such as MCPM and AEMC.
- Undertaking direct communication with the Australian Government through the EMA Incident Management Facility during disaster operations.
- Coordinating Queensland’s state resources during international deployments.
- Participation in Exercise *Mercury 08*, a multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise involving a wide range of agencies from Australian, Queensland and local governments.
- Participation in two major tsunami exercises – Exercise *Pacific Wave 2008* in October 2008 and Exercise *Ausnami* in June 2009. The former was a tsunami warning and communication exercise, the aim of which was to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of tsunami warning centres. The latter was a two-day national exercise designed to test the Australian Tsunami Warning System (ATWS), a comprehensive tsunami warning system for Australia.
- Engagement with the Australian Government through several national forums including:
 - » Australian Tsunami Working Group
 - » National Community Safety Working Group
 - » National Flood Risk Advisory Group
 - » National Forum on Emergency Warnings to the Community
 - » National Risk Assessment Advisory Group
 - » NEWS Working Group.
- Participation in EMA disaster management training courses provided at the EMA Institute in Mount Macedon, Victoria.
- Ongoing contributions to the Australian Disaster Information Network, an electronic portal aimed at providing a collaboration capability for disaster management personnel in jurisdictions across Australia.

COMRECEPLAN

Queensland provides assistance to the Australian Government for the reception of Australian nationals and other approved persons evacuated from overseas into Queensland. The QRECEPLAN defines the roles and responsibilities of the Queensland Government in these arrangements, in line with the Australian Government’s COMRECEPLAN.

The QRECEPLAN was activated in support of the COMRECEPLAN on one occasion during the 2008-2009 reporting period, following a series of terrorist attacks occurring on 26 and 27 November 2008 in Mumbai, India. On request from EMA’s Incident Management Facility, EMQ established a reception point at the Brisbane Airport, with functional agency intelligence coordinated through the SDCC.

Committee Contribution

EMQ actively participates in a range of committees across all levels of government to allow for the promotion of the QDMA and to increase awareness of policies and initiatives occurring across government in regards to disaster management. These include:

- Brisbane Port Safety Organisation
- Catastrophic Disasters Working Group
- Communication Reference Group

- Community Warning Working Group
- Counter-Terrorism Training and Exercise Management Committee
- Disaster Framework Reference Group
- Emergency Warning Systems Working Group
- Equine Influenza Control Group
- Gladstone Port Safety Organisation
- Interdepartmental Committee on Bushfires and the Operations Sub-Committee
- National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee
- Nuclear Powered Warship Visits Committee
- Public Safety Communications Reference Group
- Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee
- QFCC
- QTCCC
- Queensland National Plan State (Oil Spill) Committee

National Policy Impacts on the QDMA

During the 2008–2009 reporting period there were a number of significant policy developments undertaken at a national level, which directly impact on the QDMA.

Key initiatives include:

- Development of a National Disaster Resilience Strategy, reflecting the new emergency management direction established by the MCPEM–Emergency Management (EM); promoting community resilience.
- Delivery of the Prime Minister’s First National Security Statement to the Australia Parliament, widening the scope of security to include the impacts of climate change and catastrophic natural disaster.
- Endorsement of the Ric Smith security review undertaken in mid-2008, promoting a closer relationship between the NCTC and the AEMC.
- The COAG review of disaster arrangements (including the establishment of the NDAWG) wholesale reform of the current national natural disaster arrangements, including revision of the 2007 NDRRA Determination to include heatwave as an eligible event, and improvements to the current DACC arrangements.
- The Australian Government has redirected the \$4.6 million per annum funding under the State Support Package and \$2 million funding under the NDMP to the AEMC. This small funding boost will assist the AEMC to develop national capabilities for use by member states.
- Development of NEWS for implementation during 2009. Victoria is leading the tender process for certain components of NEWS. Queensland is involved in the national working group progressing the capability. NEWS will provide the Queensland Government with the ability to provide warnings to selected communities via short warnings to address-based land-lines and mobile telephones.
- The AEMC’s development of a draft National Catastrophic Natural Disaster Plan. The Director-General, DCS was instrumental in development of this plan, which describes the national coordination arrangements for supporting states and territories and the Australian Government in responding to and recovering from catastrophic natural disasters in Australia.
- Royal Commission into the Victorian ‘Black Saturday’ bushfires. The subsequent interim report will have direct relevance to Queensland in the areas of emergency management and response.
- National Bushfire Warnings Forum, including formation of a national taskforce under the AEMC.
- Announcement of the National DRP as part of the Federal Budget. The DRP is a new disaster risk reduction program focussing on building community resilience and will replace the NDMP, Bushfire Mitigation Program and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. Following consultation a National Partnership Agreement was prepared.
- DCS has prepared a State Position Paper for the DRP, outlining potential risks and opportunities and calling for a revision of governance arrangements for disaster mitigation funding, including the establishment of a high level group (with representation from the LGAQ), a permanent secretariat and a new application assessment group. Subsequently the Queensland Government has provided a commitment of \$22.08 million over four years from 2009-2010, being the state contribution matching the Australian Government’s contribution.
- Through DCS, Queensland successfully advocated for the development of a National Volunteer Passport, allowing states to recognise the experience and skills of emergency services volunteers across Australia via the Council of Australian Federation (CAF). The Premier of Queensland (CAF Chair) advocated for the passport and the idea was subsequently endorsed by the CAF. DCS is coordinating the development of the passport through a national working group.
- DCS has also successfully advocated for the development of a volunteer skills development coordination role, to be established as a pilot in Queensland using Australian Government Jobs Fund funding. The volunteer coordinator will assist to increase volunteer participation and provide a pathway to employment through structured skills development.

XO Function D – Alignment with SPF

Function::	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the state are consistent with the SDMG's Strategic Policy Framework for disaster management for the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements are established through a national approach to disaster management across the three levels of government: Australian Government, State Government and Local Government.

Through aligning the disaster management annual reporting process to the key disaster management elements outlined in the Disaster Management SPF, the XO can review disaster management and disaster operations for the reporting year to ensure that activities are being undertaken in line with the SPF.

Previously, the SDMG annual reporting process encouraged SDMG member agencies to report key disaster management activities against the SPF elements and included an overview of DDMG activities summarised from their individual annual reports.

The 2008–2009 annual reporting process has been designed to report disaster management activities from a state, district and local perspective, with a greater emphasis on measuring activities and achievements against the key performance indicators identified for each SPF element.

Through a more collaborative approach to annual reporting processes for disaster management and disaster operations, the XO will be better able to assess the consistency of activities at each level of the QDMA against the disaster management SPF and identify strategies for continuous improvement into the future.

XO Function E – SDMG Governance

Function:	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage and coordinate business of the SDMG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the SDMG is supported and able to effect disaster management as and when required, including the conduct of ordinary and extraordinary meetings and the preparation of an annual report. Provision of support to other state committees such as the SDCG, SDMC and to the DDMGs and LDMGs.

The DM Act outlines a number of corporate governance requirements for the SDMG, including the frequency of meetings, quorum and the keeping of meeting minutes as follows:

- Section 39 – meetings are to occur at least once in every six months.
- Section 40 – Quorum is equal to one-half of members holding office plus one (to the next highest whole number where applicable).
- Section 43 – Meeting minutes must be kept.

Meeting Dates: (s. 39)	Meeting Type	Presiding Officer (s. 41)	No. Attendees	Quorum achieved (s. 40)	Validation of Meeting Resolutions (s. 42(3))	Minutes kept (s. 43)
9 September 2008	Ordinary conducted via Flying Minute	N/A	N/A	Yes	Endorsed out-of-session via Flying Minute	Yes
14 October 2008	Extraordinary (Exercise <i>Mercury 08</i>)	Chairperson Ken Smith	6	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
14 November 2008	Extraordinary (Exercise <i>Sustain 08</i>)	Chairperson Ken Smith	5	No	Endorsed out-of-session via Flying Minute	Yes

Meeting Dates: (s. 39)	Meeting Type	Presiding Officer (s. 41)	No. Attendees	Quorum achieved (s. 40)	Validation of Meeting Resolutions (s. 42(3))	Minutes kept (s. 43)
24 November 2008	Extraordinary – Brisbane Storms	Chairperson Ken Smith	6	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
10 December 2008	Ordinary	Deputy Chairperson Jim McGowan	3	No	Endorsed out- of-session via Flying Minute	Yes
9 March 2009	Extraordinary –TC Hamish	Chairperson Ken Smith	7	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
11 March 2009	Ordinary	Chairperson Ken Smith	6	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
28 April 2009	Extraordinary – Pandemic (H1N1) 2009	Chairperson Ken Smith	9	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
1 May 2009	Extraordinary – Pandemic (H1N1) 2009	Chairperson Ken Smith	8	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes
28 May 2009	Extraordinary – Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Teleconference)	Chairperson Ken Smith	10	Yes	Endorsed in-session via quorum.	Yes

2007-2008 SDMG Annual Report

Following endorsement by members at the December 2008 ordinary SDMG meeting, the 2007–2008 SDMG Annual Report was finalised and presented to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services in April 2009.

A printed copy of the 2007–2008 SDMG Annual Report was distributed to SDMG members, with an electronic version of the report available to stakeholders via the Disaster Management Portal and the disaster website www.disaster.qld.gov.au



XO Function F – Disaster Management Assistance

Function:	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To coordinate State and Commonwealth assistance for disaster management and disaster operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program and the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for the State.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period the SDMG XO coordinated state and commonwealth assistance for disaster management and disaster operations through the provision of:

- Activation of NDRRA for five events across Queensland, with an estimated expenditure of \$337 million.
- Activation of special assistance in the form of grants to small businesses and primary producers, to assist with clean-up and restoration activities following the Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and TCs Charlotte and Ellie event in January–February 2009.
- A state/commonwealth Fodder Dropping Assistance Package to assist primary producers affected by the Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and TCs Charlotte and Ellie events in January–February 2009.
- Activation of the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) on two occasions for events in south west Queensland.
- Contribution to the COAG NDAWG.
- Pre-disaster season NDRRA and SDRA training was conducted for local governments and state government agencies throughout Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Channel Country and Maranoa areas.

Further information regarding the NDMP is contained in Part One, Element Eight of this report.

More detailed information regarding NDRRA activations associated with disaster activities for the 2008–2009 reporting period is contained in Part Three – Disaster Operations.



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08/09
 10/09

XO Function G – Disaster Management Training and Exercises

Function:	Summary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that persons performing functions under the DM Act to disaster operations are appropriately trained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that disaster management groups and key stakeholders are trained and exercised on a regular basis.

Disaster Management Training

Part Two – Reporting against the SPF, Element Five – Disaster Preparedness provided an overview of agency-specific disaster management training conducted or attended by SDMG member agencies during the 2008–2009 reporting period, including:

- stakeholder training sessions
- internal disaster management training
- training associated with functional agency disaster management plans.

In accordance the DM Act, the SDMG XO is responsible for ensuring persons undertaking a functional role within the QDMA are appropriately trained.

In Queensland, disaster management training is accessed through a variety of training resources, including courses delivered by EMQ and the EMA Australian Emergency Management Institute, covering topics such as AIIMS incident management and emergency risk management.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period over 5000 persons from within Queensland Government, GCOs NGOs and SES volunteers were provided disaster management training, incorporating disaster mitigation concepts, delivered through EMQ. Of these, 982 undertook the *Introduction to Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements Induction* course delivered by EMQ.

Additionally, the SDCC coordinated training sessions for a diverse range of disaster management stakeholders during the 2008–2009 reporting period, as detailed below:

Indigenous Community Tsunami Workshop			
Training Date:	12 May 2009		
DM Component Targeted:	Preparedness		
Training coordinated by:	EMQ / BoM / Geoscience Australia Training sponsored by AGD and EMQ.		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMQ BoM Geoscience Australia Torres Shire Council Torres Strait Regional Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torres Strait Regional Authority Cairns DDMG QAS QFRS QPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMR SES Australia Red Cross (Queensland) Communities QHealth

Marine Users Tsunami Workshop			
Training Date:	17 June 2009		
DM Component Targeted:	Preparedness		
Training coordinated by:	EMQ / BoM / Geoscience Australia Training sponsored by AGD and EMQ.		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMQ Bundaberg Regional Council Gold Coast City Council Moreton Bay Marine Park Authority Brisbane Airport Corporation MSQ (DTMR) DEEDI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BoM Logan Regional Council Energex DIP QPS Surf Life Saving Queensland DERM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoscience Australia Redland City Council VMR DTMR Queensland Building Services Authority Volunteer Coast Guard DET

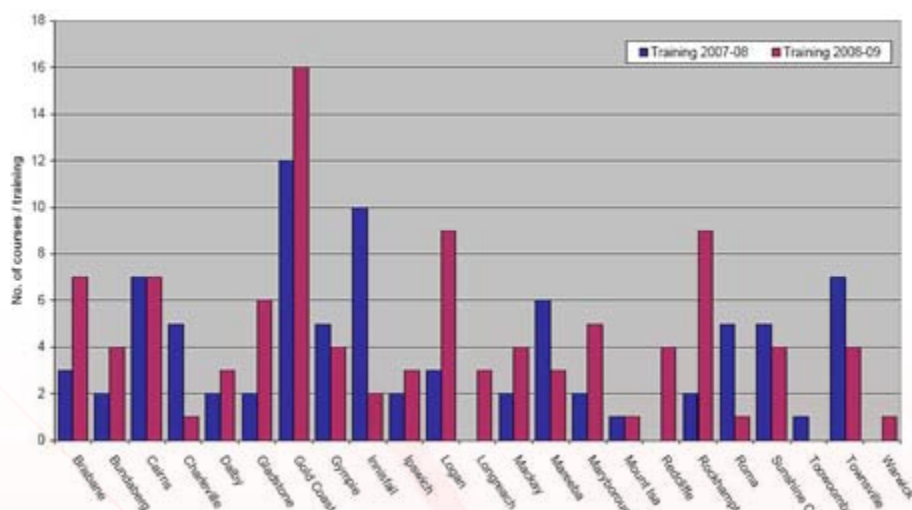
SDCC Portal and Task Tracking Training	
Training Date:	January 2009
DM Component Targeted:	Preparedness
Training coordinated by:	EMQ Disaster Operations
Agencies involved:	• SDCG Member Agencies

SDCC, RFA Online, Task Tracking Training	
Training Date:	Numerous sessions between July 2008 and March 2009
DM Component Targeted:	Preparedness and Response
Training coordinated by:	EMQ Disaster Operations and Disaster Finance
Agencies involved:	• EMQ / DCS

SDCC, RFA Online, Task Tracking and Tsunami Workshops	
Training Date:	Numerous sessions between April – June 2009
DM Component Targeted:	Preparedness and Response
Training coordinated by:	EMQ Disaster Operations, Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Finance.
Agencies involved:	• EMQ / DCS / Local Governments / LDMG representatives.

District Disaster Management Group Training

The following table provides a comparative summary of the provision of training at district level during the 2008–2009 reporting period.



Of the 101 training courses undertaken by DDMGs during the 2008–2009 reporting period, the majority of courses focussed on the disaster management components of preparedness and response.

In addition, disaster prevention and recovery components were represented in approximately 50% of all courses/training undertaken in the reporting period.

Disaster Management Exercises

The conduct of disaster management exercises provide a valuable tool for ensuring disaster management stakeholders are provided with the appropriate training and hands on experience to handle all types of hazards within Queensland. During the reporting period, SDMG member agencies and other QDMA stakeholders participated in a wide range of exercises, from practical land-based exercises through to round table discussions and forums.

The following section highlights the key disaster management exercises undertaken during the 2008–2009 reporting period:

Exercise Mercury 08			
Commencement Date:	14 October 2008	Duration of exercise:	Three-days
Type of exercise:	Practical		
Exercise coordinated by:	NCTC		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPC • DTMR • DEEDI • Treasury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS / EMQ • QPS • DIP • DET 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPW • Communities • QHealth • Brisbane City Council

Exercise Overview

Conducted by the NCTC, Exercise *Mercury 08* was a multi-jurisdictional, high-level decision-making exercise designed to enhance Australia's national capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from multiple threats and/or acts of terrorism against Australia and Australia's interests.



Exercise *Mercury 08* was jointly held between Queensland and Western Australia and involved the conduct of a three-day large-scale field exercise, with a series of pre-exercise discussions and liaisons between the National Crisis Committee and State Crises Centres.

The Queensland component of Exercise *Mercury 08* focussed on testing Queensland's specific counter-terrorism arrangements with a focus on consequent management.

The exercise incorporated a number of activities, including:

- preparatory workshops, focussing on:
 - » operational response and consequence management
 - » strategic crisis and consequence management
 - » strategic recovery management
 - » public information and media coordination
 - » government and industry coordination
- a field exercise phase conducted from 14 to 16 October 2008
- Queensland Government response, including meetings of the State Security Committee, the SDMG and the State Crisis Communication Network.

The SDCC was activated during the field component of this exercise to coordinate the disaster management arrangements, providing regular reporting to the State Crisis Communication Centre and maintaining a close liaison with the Police Operations Centre.

Exercise *Mercury 08* enabled the QDMA to test counter-terrorism arrangements with a focus on consequence management. Running concurrently to the field exercise, SDCG members were invited to participate in a discussion exercise to resolve emerging consequence management issues not exercised as part of the crisis-focussed field exercise.

Exercise Pacific Wave 08

Commencement Date:	29 October 2008	Duration of exercise:	One-day
Type of exercise:	Tabletop		
Exercise coordinated by:	The Joint Australia Tsunami Warning Centre through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS through EMQ 	

Exercise Overview

Australia's participation in the international tsunami warning exercise *Pacific Wave 08* provided an opportunity to test the dissemination of tsunami advisories (including bulletins, watches and warnings) by the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC), with the aim of evaluating and improving the effectiveness of tsunami warning centres.

Queensland Government's participation in this exercise was based on the BoM's use of the new enhanced tsunami warning service following a tsunami-genic earthquake scenario occurring near Tonga. Dissemination of information and advisories from the JATWC to the relevant stakeholders of the QDMA was facilitated through the SDCC.

Exercise Sustain 08

Commencement Date:	14 November 2008	Duration of exercise:	One-day
Type of exercise:	Tabletop		
Exercise coordinated by:	The Joint Australia Tsunami Warning Centre through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPC • DIP • Treasury • DET • LGAQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS / EMQ • DTMR • DEEDI • BCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QPS • QHealth • Communities • DPW

Exercise Overview

Exercise *Sustain 08* was a COAG-sponsored pandemic influenza exercise, aimed at examining the government's role in maintaining economic and social functioning and community resilience during a prolonged pandemic influenza event.

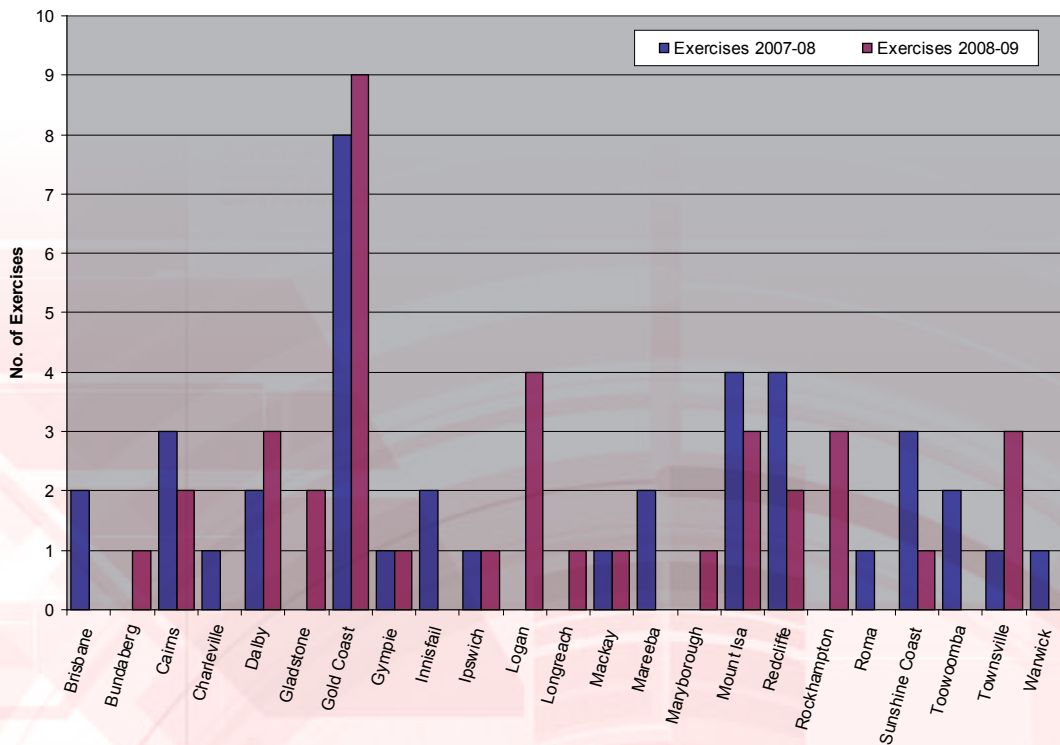
The exercise focussed on assessing the government's decision-making and public communications ability during the Australian phase 6b of a pandemic – i.e. when pandemic is widespread across Australia.

During the exercise the Queensland Government was involved in a series of meetings and teleconferences, including the National Pandemic Emergency Committee, the National Communication Officers Network, COAG, SDMG and the State Crisis Communication Network.

Exercise Ausnami			
Commencement Date:	15 June 2009	Duration of exercise:	Two-day
Type of exercise:	Tabletop		
Exercise coordinated by:	AGD		
Agencies involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGD (including the AGD Disaster Coordination Centre, EMA Incident Management Facility, Public Affairs and the ATWS project team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BoM 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoscience Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMQ 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Services Agency, Western Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Australia State Emergency Service 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria State Emergency Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New South Wales State Emergency Service 	
Exercise Overview			
<p>National Exercise <i>Ausnami</i> was designed to test the ATWS. Queensland participated in the first day of the national exercise on 15 June 2009 and observed the second day, which was conducted in Canberra.</p> <p>The aim of Exercise <i>Ausnami</i> was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Queensland Tsunami Notification Protocol (draft), SDCC Standard Operating Procedure Tsunami SDC C5.14 Ver0.5 (draft) and the SDCC Initial Notification of Events Matrix as at 27 May 2009 (draft) in managing tsunami warnings for Queensland and state level. The Queensland objectives for the exercise were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> test the technical capacity of EMQ to effectively manage ATWS tsunami warnings validate that warnings are being disseminated to the correct stakeholders within Queensland validate the comprehension of warning messages by state and local government agencies review the Queensland tsunami warning notification process and holding statement arrangements. <p>Exercise outcomes identified that the SDCC disseminated all warnings in accordance with the established standard operating procedures and all exercise objectives were achieved.</p>			

District Disaster Management Group Exercises

DDMG participated in a total of 38 exercises during the 2008–2009 reporting period, compared to 39 during 2007-2008.



XO Function H – DDMG Executive Officer Appointments

Function:	Summary:
To appoint, under section 27, the executive officers of district groups.	To ensure that each DDMG has an appointed executive officer in accordance with section 27

During the 2008–2009 reporting period, the SDMG XO undertook a review of the DDMG XO appointments, in accordance with section 27 of the DM Act. The current status, by position is:

DDMG	Executive Officer Appointee
Brisbane	Regional Director Brisbane, EMQ
Bundaberg	Area Director Wide Bay Burnett, EMQ
Cairns	Regional Director Far Northern, EMQ
Charleville	Area Director Roma, EMQ
Dalby	Regional Director South Western, EMQ
Gladstone	Area Director Rockhampton, EMQ
Gold Coast	Regional Director South Eastern, EMQ
Gympie	Area Director Sunshine Coast, EMQ
Innisfail	Regional Director Far Northern, EMQ
Ipswich	Regional Director South Eastern, EMQ
Logan	Regional Director South Eastern, EMQ
Longreach	Area Director Longreach, EMQ
Mackay	Area Director Mackay, EMQ
Mareeba	Regional Director Far Northern, EMQ
Sunshine Coast (Maroochydore)	Area Director Sunshine Coast, EMQ
Maryborough	Area Director Wide Bay Burnett, EMQ
Mount Isa	Regional Director Northern, EMQ
Redcliffe	Area Director Brisbane, EMQ
Rockhampton	Area Director Rockhampton, EMQ
Roma	Area Director Roma, EMQ
Toowoomba	Area Director Toowoomba, EMQ
Townsville	Regional Director Northern, EMQ
Warwick	Area Director Toowoomba, EMQ

XO Function I – XO Reporting

Function:	Summary:
To regularly report to the group about the performance of the executive officer's functions (a) to (h)	Provision of support the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in the discharge of their roles duties, roles and responsibilities across the concepts of disaster management.

The SDMG XO report detailing functions undertaken during the reporting period is provided as part of this report to encourage transparency and accountability and demonstrate the support provided to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in the discharge of their duties.

XO Function J – SDMG Secretariat

Function:	Summary:
To support the group in the performance of its functions.	Provision of support to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the SDMG in the administration and management of the SDMG.



During the 2008–2009 reporting period, the SDMG Secretariat:

- Coordinated three ordinary meetings, ensuring meeting resolutions were acquitted and meeting minutes finalised.
- Coordinated eight extraordinary meetings, ensuring resolutions were acquitted and meeting minutes finalised.
- Coordinated and finalised the 2007-2008 SDMG Annual Report.
- Established the reporting process and templates for the 2008–2009 SDMG Annual Report.
- Compiled the first draft of the SDMG Governance Guidelines for member feedback.
- Coordinated the process to extend SDMG membership following Machinery of Government changes and facilitated Governor in Council appointment of SDMG members.
- Undertook record management for the SDMG in line with public record management policies and procedures.


PART THREE – DISASTER EVENTS

A wide range of disaster events, from extensive flooding resulting from TCs Charlotte and Ellie, through to influenza pandemic saw the QDMA activated across the state for extended periods of time during the 2008–2009 reporting period.

The following section provides a detailed summary of the key disaster events during the reporting period.

Queensland Storms and Associated Flooding			
Event Date:	16–22 November 2008		
Summary of Event:	<p>Severe storms swept through Queensland's south east on Sunday 16 November 2008. The storms cut through suburbs west of Brisbane, affecting in particular the suburbs of The Gap, Keperra, Ferny Hills and Arana Hills. Hail falls were recorded at Mt Tamborine, the Gold Coast hinterland, Beaudesert and Ferny Hills.</p> <p>The storm was the first in a series that impacted south-east Queensland, down to the New South Wales border. Floods resulting from heavy rain affected parts of the south east including Ipswich, the Gold Coast and some suburbs of Brisbane.</p>		
			
Local Government Areas affected:	See NDRRA section below		
Disaster Management Tiers involved:	State, district and local		
Did a Declaration of Disaster occur:	Yes	By whom:	The Minister for Emergency Services
Date Declared:	19 November 2008 at 8:03pm	Disaster Declaration Area:	The Gap, Brisbane
Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements			
Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Activated			
NDRRA Activated by:	The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP		
Area formally defined for receipt of NDRRA Relief Measures by Minister:			
<i>"Communities within Queensland affected by severe storms and associated flooding on 16 November 2008 through to 22 November 2008"</i>			
NDRRA Relief Measures Activated			
NDRRA Relief Measure/s:	Specific Local Government areas:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counter Disaster Operations Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme Restoration of Essential Public Assets Associations Natural Disaster Relief Scheme Concessional Loans to Small Businesses for Carry-on and Re-establishment Costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brisbane City Council Moreton Bay Regional Council Gold Coast City Council Somerset Regional Council Logan City Council Sunshine Coast Regional Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockyer Valley Regional Council Dalby Regional Council Central Highlands Regional Council Toowoomba Regional Council Ipswich City Council Scenic Rim Council 	
			
<p>21 November 2008 Warwick Women's Work Camp – 13 female prisoners and a supervisor joined the clean-up effort assisting the Ipswich SES to fill sandbags and unpack tarpaulins.</p>			

Baralaba Storms

Event Date:	7 December 2008	
Summary of Event:		
<p>On Sunday 7 December 2008 severe storms affected the township of Baralaba, within Banana Shire in the Fitzroy / central west Queensland region.</p> <p>Many private homes and community buildings were affected by hail and other storm damage, including the Baralaba hospital, ambulance station and school.</p> <p>One household was identified by Communities as having suffered financial and/or personal hardship and distress as a result of the event.</p>		
Local Government Areas affected:	Banana Shire Council	
Disaster Management Tiers involved	State and local	
Did a Declaration of Disaster occur:	No	
Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements		
State Disaster Relief Arrangements Activated		
SDRA Activated by:	The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP.	
Area formally defined for receipt of SDRA Relief Measures by Minister:		
<i>“Communities within Baralaba affected by severe storms on 7 December 2008”</i>		

Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie

Event Date: January–February 2009

Summary of Event:

Severe monsoonal flooding and two TCs affected north and west Queensland over the months of January and February 2009.

On 11 January 2009, the weather system which had produced heavy rainfall and associated flooding in north west Queensland since 3 January 2009 developed into TC Charlotte, which crossed the coast near the Gilbert River mouth on the morning of 12 January 2009. Heavy rainfall associated with the rain depression and an active monsoon trough occurred over the catchments of the already flooded Gulf Rivers, resulting in flooding that had serious impacts on many local communities in the Gulf area. The small town of Karumba was isolated from the beginning of January until early March, during which time numerous resupply operations of essential supplies, fuel and mail were undertaken by air and sea.

TC Ellie made landfall near Mission Beach in the early hours of 2 February 2009, causing the Herbert River to rise beyond 12 meters and flooding the township of Ingham, in the Hinchinbrook Shire. A significant proportion of Ingham was isolated for several days by flood waters, with clean-up operations being assisted by SES volunteers and low security prisoners. During this event the ADF provided 4,500 ration packs to Ingham residents and established a bulk aviation fuel supply at the Ingham airport allowing disaster relief flights to continue in the area. After a pipe supplying Karumba residents with a potable water supply was damaged, the ADF installed and operated a water purification plant from late February to early May 2009. A total of 40 local government areas were activated for disaster relief assistance in Queensland during this timeframe.



Local Government Areas affected: See NDRRA section below

Disaster Management Tiers involved: State, district and local

Did a Declaration of Disaster occur: No

Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Activated

NDRRA Activated by: The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP.

Area formally defined for receipt of NDRRA Relief Measures by Minister:

“Communities within Queensland affected by Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie, January – February 2009”



SES volunteers assist with resupply operations in Normanton during monsoonal flooding resulting from TCs Ellie and Charlotte.


NDRRA Relief Measures Activated

NDRRA Relief Measure/s:	Specific Local Government areas:	
• Restoration of Essential Public Assets	• Arunkun Shire Council	• Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
• Counter Disaster Operations	• Barcardine Regional Council	• Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
• Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme	• Barcoo Shire Council	• Longreach Regional Council
• Concessional Loans to Small Businesses	• Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	• Mackay Regional Council
• Concessional Loans to Primary Producers, specific Local Government areas:	• Boulia Shire Council	• Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
• Burke Shire Council	• Burdekin Shire Council	• McKinlay Shire Council
• Carpentaria Shire Council	• Burke Shire Council	• Mornington Shire Council
• Cloncurry Shire Council	• Cairns Regional Council	• Mount Isa City Council
• Croydon Shire Council	• Carpentaria Shire Council	• Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
• Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	• Cassowary Coast Regional Council	• Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
• Etheridge Shire Council	• Central Highlands Regional Council	• Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
• Hinchinbrook Shire Council	• Charters Towers Regional Council	• Richmond Shire Council
• McKinlay Shire Council	• Cloncurry Shire Council	• Tablelands Regional Council
• Richmond Shire Council.	• Cook Shire Council	• Torres Strait Island Regional Council
• Freight Subsidies, specific Local Government areas:	• Croydon Shire Council	• Townsville City Council
• Burke Shire Council	• Diamantina Shire Council	• Whitsunday Regional Council
• Carpentaria Shire Council	• Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	• Winton Shire Council
• Cloncurry Shire Council	• Etheridge Shire Council	• Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
• Croydon Shire Council	• Flinders Shire Council	
• Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	• Hinchinbrook Shire Council	
• Etheridge Shire Council	• Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	
• Hinchinbrook Shire Council	• Isaac Regional Council	
• McKinlay Shire Council		
• Richmond Shire Council		


Karumba Airstrip

As a result of this event, EIDI (DEEDI) commenced a roll-out of both Queensland and Australian Government funding to upgrade the Karumba Airstrip, with a funding allocation also provided by the Carpentaria Shire Council. The improved airstrip will negate the need for costly fixed-price barge support and planning will, in the first instance, focus on cheaper and quicker response alternatives of flying essential items into Karumba during periods of isolation. Barge services will be included in the planning for extended flooding/isolations events where large weight or very high volume items are required. This will ensure that business owners/operators are able to continue to conduct business transactions during periods of isolation.

Tara Storms

Event Date:	15 February 2009		
Summary of Event:	<p>On Sunday 15 February 2009 a severe storm affected the township of Tara, within the Dalby Regional Council (south west Queensland). The SDRA was activated to address personal hardship needs identified for affected persons within Tara.</p>		
Local Government Areas affected:	Dalby Regional Council		
Disaster Management Tiers involved	Local		
Did a Declaration of Disaster occur:	No		
Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements			
State Disaster Relief Arrangements Activated			
SDRA Activated by:	The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP		
Area formally defined for receipt of SDRA Relief Measures by Minister:			
"Communities within Tara affected by severe storms on 15 February 2009"			
SDRA Relief Measures Activated			
NDRRA / SDRA Relief Measure/s:	Specific Local Government areas:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalby Regional Council 		

Tropical Cyclone Hamish

Event Date:	5–11 March 2009	
Summary of Event:	<p>On 5 March 2009 a tropical low in the coral sea intensified to become TC Hamish, which then commenced a south east track parallel to the Queensland coastline, intensifying over the following days to a Category 5. As a preparatory measure, evacuations were commenced from the Whitsunday Island Group, Heron, Lady Elliot and Fraser Island.</p> <p>On 11 March, TC Hamish weakened and was downgraded to a low. During this time eight local governments were activated for relief assistance, to cover counter disaster operations costs incurred by local governments and DCS.</p>	
Local Government Areas affected:	See NDRRA section below.	
Disaster Management Tiers involved	State, district and local	
Did a Declaration of Disaster occur:	Yes	By whom: The Premier of Queensland
Date Declared:	7 March 2009 at 10:00am.	
Disaster Declaration Area:	The disaster districts of Innisfail, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Maryborough.	

Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Activated

NDRRA Activated by: The Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP

Area formally defined for receipt of NDRRA Relief Measures by Minister:

“Communities within Coastal Areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Hamish on 5 – 11 March 2009”

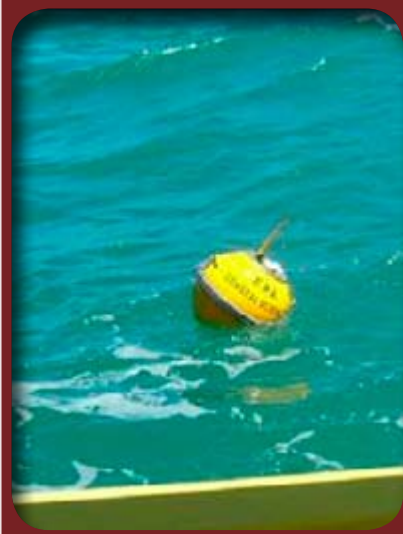
NDRRA Relief Measures Activated

NDRRA Relief Measure/s:	Specific Local Government areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter Disaster Operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundaberg Regional Council • Fraser Coast Regional Council • Gladstone Regional Council • Isaac Regional Council • Mackay Regional Council • Rockhampton Regional Council • Sunshine Coast Regional Council • Whitsunday Regional Council

BOB's Brush with Hamish

DERM's Baby Ocean Buoy (BOB) was dropped into Hervey Bay from an Energen Community Rescue helicopter to record TC Hamish. BOB was placed in an area not covered by the DERM's network of moored wave buoys and therefore supplemented the valuable information obtained from these buoys. BOB drifted freely with the prevailing tides and currents, recording and transmitting data during its 300km journey.

During its voyage BOB recorded a peak significant wave height of 4.7 metres (on 9 March 2009) and a peak maximum wave height of 8.4 metres. By midnight on 11 March 2009 recorded wave heights had reduced markedly, mainly due to BOB drifting very close to Heron Island. At 11:47pm, BOB was 100m west of Heron Island. After the threat from TC Hamish had passed, BOB was recovered on 16 March 2009 using the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard vessel from Thirsty Sound QF24. For more information about BOB's journey see <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/po2934aa.pdf>.



Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill

Event Date: 11 March 2009

Summary of Event:

On 11 March 2009, the largest oil slick to impact the Queensland coast washed ashore on Moreton Island. Over the next two days the oil slick also impacted beaches along the Sunshine Coast and Moreton, from Point Cartwright to Kawana in the north, to Moreton Island in the south.

The oil slick was from a general cargo ship called the Pacific Adventurer which lost 31 containers of ammonium nitrate overboard in cyclonic seas about seven nautical miles east of Cape Moreton in the early hours of 11 March 2009. One or more of the containers breached two of the ship's fuel tanks and caused the release of an estimated 270 tonnes of heavy oil from the ship.

Queensland's oil spill contingency arrangements were activated by MSQ at 4:30am on 11 March 2009.

A disaster situation was subsequently declared by the Premier of Queensland on 12 March 2009.

The ADF assisted this event by deploying two Huon Class mine hunter ships to assist in the detection of the missing containers.

Local Government Areas affected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunshine Coast Regional Council • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Brisbane City Council 		
Disaster Management Tiers involved	State, district and local		
Did a Declaration of Disaster occur:	Yes	By whom:	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP
Date Declared:	12 March 2009 at 7:00pm	Extended to:	Two extensions of seven days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 March 2009 • 26 March 2009
Disaster Declaration Area:	The coastal waters and beaches, land and waterways adjacent to coastal waters within the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Redcliffe Disaster Districts.		

Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Not eligible for this event.



Aerial view of oil spill on beach at Moreton Island.

Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Fraser Coast Flooding

Event Date: 2 April 2009

Summary of Event:

On Thursday 2 April 2009 major flash flooding occurred in the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland, caused by heavy rainfall, resulting in damage to roads, bridges and the inundation of numerous houses. Response operations in the area included the evacuation of persons from the Noosa National Park.



Local Government Areas affected: See NDRRA section below.

Disaster Management Tiers involved State, district and local

Did a Declaration of Disaster occur: No

Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Activated

NDRRA Activated by: The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts, MP

Area formally defined for receipt of NDRRA Relief Measures by Minister / Premier:

“Communities within Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Fraser Coast affected by heavy rainfall and associated flooding in April 2009”

NDRRA Relief Measures Activated

NDRRA Relief Measure/s:

- Restoration of Essential Public Assets
- Counter Disaster Operations
- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Concessional Loans to Small Business

Specific Local Government areas:

- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Gympie Regional Council

Working in partnership to recover communities

Following flash flooding in the small rural community in Kin Kin during this event Communities was activated to assist affected individuals and families. 30 departmental staff formed outreach teams to assess and provide financial assistance to affected households. As part of the focussed response to those most in need, departmental staff, in partnership with Australia Red Cross (Queensland), doorknocked more than 300 homes in the area. If families were not available, a letterbox drop provided information on the assistance available and relevant telephone contact numbers.

The outreach response model provided all participating agencies with the opportunity to focus resources and response where they were most needed and to provide face-to-face support. Lifeline was a key partner of the community recovery response, providing personal and counselling support to a number of people severely impacted by the flooding. Mr Chris Lancaster, General Manager, Lifeline said “It was great to be part of a really effective team and by networking together we were able to achieve more”.

There were several other key partners involved in the community recovery of Kin Kin, including St Vincent de Paul, who responded immediately with basic needs such as food, clothing and bedding and Communities’ Housing and Homelessness Services, who assisted in the arrangement of alternative accommodation.

South East Queensland Low

Event Date: 19–21 May 2009

Summary of Event:

A strong upper level low located over south east Queensland produced damaging winds, heavy rainfall and abnormally high tides during mid May 2009. Many areas of the Sunshine Coast recorded 24-hour rainfall totals above 250mm and on 19 May 2009, as the system moved southwards, cases were recorded of rainfall over 400mm across south east Queensland.

During this period 6,508 calls were made to the SES 132 500 telephone number. Extreme rainfall resulted in flash flooding, swamping cars and properties; while strong winds brought down trees and powerlines, resulting in the death of one person from flying debris on the Gold Coast, and loss of power to over 60,000 premises.

Significant beach erosion occurred along exposed coastal areas, resulting from a combination of normal high tides paired with strong onshore winds. Expected inundation over low lying areas saw the evacuation of approximately 2000 people gathered on Fraser Island as part of the 2009 Toyota Fishing Classic.



Local Government Areas affected: See NDRRA listing

Disaster Management Tiers involved State, district, local.

Did a Declaration of Disaster occur: No

Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Activated

NDRRA Activated by: The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Honourable Neil Roberts MP

Area formally defined for receipt of NDRRA Relief Measures by Minister:

“Communities within South East Queensland affected by the South East Queensland Low, May 2009”

NDRRA / SDRA Relief Measures Activated

NDRRA Relief Measure/s:

- Restoration of Essential Public Assets
- Counter Disaster Operations
- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Concessional Loans to Small Business

Specific Local Government areas:

- Brisbane City Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Redland City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council

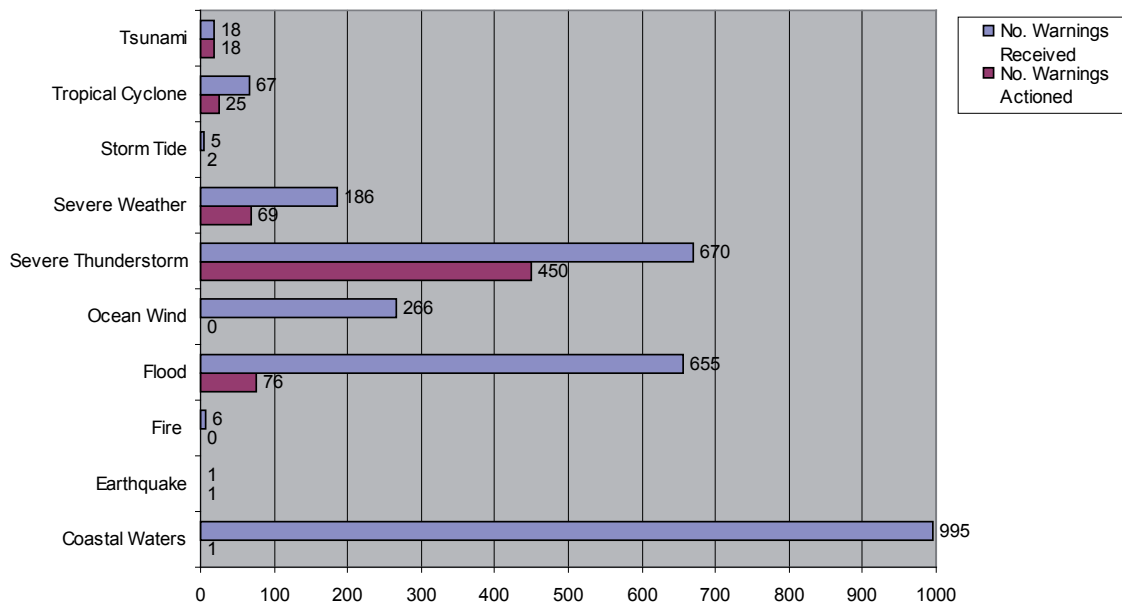


Photo Caption: Flooding on Bowen Bridge Road – Herston (Brisbane)

BoM Weather Warnings

EMQ has a very close working relationship with the BoM, due to the high frequency of severe natural phenomena affecting communities throughout the state. Under this relationship EMQ has access to 20 weather stations across the state.

During the 2008–2009 reporting period the SDCC received a total of 2,869 weather notifications from the BoM, in the form of warnings, bulletins and advices. Of the notifications received, 642 of these required further follow up action from the SDCC. The remainder of the notifications required nil or minimal action, as they related to routine advice such as Coastal Wind Warnings, Tropical Cyclone Outlooks, Tropical Cyclone Information Bulletins and Flood Summaries.



Other notable events

Hendra Virus – July to September 2008

Test results received on 8 July 2008 confirmed a horse from a veterinary practice in Redlands (on the outskirts of Brisbane) had tested positive for Hendra Virus. Quarantine measures were put into effect from 7 July to 25 August 2008. During this period a further four horses were confirmed positive for Hendra Virus. Two persons were also confirmed as infected with the virus, one of whom later died.

A further three horses were found to be infected with the virus at Proserpine, which were quarantined from 14 July to 12 September 2008.

DEEDI led the whole-of-Government response to this event, supported by the DCS through the SDCC. An independent review prepared by AusVET Animal Health Services on behalf of the Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (now DEEDI) found the two incidents resulted from separate exposure events and therefore the event was managed as two separate incident responses.

Dengue Fever Outbreak – December 2008

In December 2008, QHealth effectively managed the public health emergency created by the Dengue Fever outbreak in the north of the state, centred on the Cairns and the Townsville communities. This has been one of the most significant outbreaks of this disease and with strong QHealth coordination and operational support partnerships with local government and respective DDMGs, the impacted communities were provided with optimal protection and recovery.

<p>Victorian ‘Black Saturday’ Bushfires – February to March 2009</p>	<p>The ‘Black Saturday’ bushfires were a series of bushfires burning across the State of Victoria from 7 February to 14 March 2009 during extreme bushfire weather conditions, resulting in Australia’s highest ever loss of life from bushfire.</p> <p>Queensland assistance to this event included the deployment of QFRS Incident Management Teams.</p>
<p>TC Jasper – March 2009</p>	<p>TC Jasper formed from a low in the Coral Sea east of Cooktown on 24 March 2009 and was monitored closely as it tracked parallel to the east Queensland coastline. By 26 March 2009 it was downgraded to a low and tracked towards New Caledonia.</p>
<p>Ashmore Reef – April 2009</p>	<p>On 16 April 2009, in the vicinity of Ashmore Reef, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred on board a vessel which was under escort by the Royal Australian Navy. Consequently, EMA activated the national COMDISPLAN and the <i>Australian Mass Casualty Burn Disaster Plan</i> (AUSBURNPLAN). Of the 44 persons requiring medical care resulting from this incident, seven were transferred to Brisbane for treatment.</p>
<p>Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – April 2009 (Ongoing)</p>	<p>On Friday 24 April 2009 the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, National Incident Room was notified by the World Health Organisation of cases of outbreak of a novel strain of H1N1 Human Swine Influenza reported in the United States of America and Mexico.</p> <p>Since the outbreak, thousands of people have contracted the H1N1 virus across the world. The QDMA remain activated to support QHealth with response to the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.</p> <p>On 28 May 2009, whilst Queensland was in the ‘Contain’ phase of its Pandemic Influenza Plan, QHealth confirmed three crew members from the cruise liner ‘Pacific Dawn’ had tested positive for H1N1. As a precautionary measure, in an effort to minimise transmission of the virus throughout Queensland’s major tourism centres, the cruise ship (containing approximately 2000 people) was requested to cut-short its travel to north Queensland and return to berth at the Hamilton cruise ship terminal in Brisbane. Prior to disembarking, all passengers were tested for the virus and screened for contact tracing.</p> <p>A second cruise ship, the ‘Dawn Princess’, docked at Hamilton Wharf, Brisbane on 7 June 2009 with some passengers displaying flu-like symptoms, however no cases of H1N1 were confirmed in this instance.</p> <p>Currently, the <i>Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan</i> is set to the ‘Protect’ phase, allowing for a focus on treatment of people identified as being vulnerable to severe outcomes, including pregnant women, those with respiratory disease, heart disease, renal disease, morbid obesity and immunosuppression. A H1N1 Vaccination is expected to commence roll-out during September 2009.</p>
<p>Avian Influenza – ongoing</p>	<p>Since January 2004 the SDCC have been monitoring situation reports received from the Australian Government on the status of Avian Influenza. The SDCC maintains a watching brief on this issue.</p>

School closures due to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

DET’s response to the management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Term Two, 2009, through the closure of 30 State Schools played a significant part in containing the spread of the virus throughout Queensland and during the Contain phase of the pandemic response. The department worked with both state and non-state schools to inform school communities about the virus and the preventative measures recommended by health authorities to reduce the spread of human swine influenza.

Below is a short extract received by DET from a school in relation to the response to human swine flu cases:

“Just a short note to express our appreciation of the efforts of yourselves and your teams for taking the trouble to alert parents from our school to the swine flu being in our school community. The parents and staff were most appreciative of the thoughts and special consideration given to our ‘special’ students, particularly given it was school vacation. Please pass on our school community’s sincerest appreciation to all staff who assisted alert parents so quickly. Your efforts were so appreciated by our parents and staff”.

Disaster Relief Arrangements

State Disaster Relief Arrangements

The SDRA is a Queensland Government funded assistance package, which addresses personal hardship and community response needs for disaster events that fall below the NDRRA activation threshold of \$240,000. The SDRA relief measures for personal hardship and community response activities are defined as the same relief measures that are activated under the NDRRA, only the funding source differs.

As the SDRA are not subject to the Australian Government imposed event eligibility provisions or activation threshold (being a Queensland Government funded assistance package), the SDRA is able to address a wider range of disaster events and circumstances where personal hardship exists.

New SDRA Activations for 2008–2009

Disaster Event	Location	Date
Baralaba Storms	Baralaba / Banana Shire – Fitzroy Central West Queensland Region	7 December 2008
Tara Storms	Tara	15 February 2009

SDRA Activations finalised in 2008–2009

Disaster Event	Location	Date
South West Queensland Storms	South West Queensland	March 2007
South East Queensland Storms	South East Queensland	November 2006

National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

The jointly funded commonwealth/state NDRRA is the prime mechanism utilised by the Queensland Government for providing financial assistance to communities affected by any one or a combination of the following natural disaster events: cyclone, storm, flood, bushfire, earthquake, storm surge, tsunami, tornado, meteor strike; and landslide (which is the direct result of an eligible event).

In Queensland, the NDRRA are administered by DCS through EMQ, with funding sourced through Queensland Treasury and the Australian Government.

The NDRRA provides for relief and recovery assistance under the following measures:

- **Restoration of Essential Public Assets** – restoration to pre-disaster standards with contribution of up to 25% to be met by the asset owner.
- **Counter Disaster Operations** – reimbursement of extraordinary disaster management costs, private debris clearing and consumables such as tarps, sandbags, ropes, etc.
- **Concessional Loans to Primary Producers** – loans of up to \$250,000 at 4% per annum (up to seven years) for primary producers who are unable to provide for their own recovery.
- **Concessional Loans to Small Businesses** – loans of up to \$250,000 at 4% per annum (up to seven years) for small businesses who are unable to provide for their own recovery.
- **Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers** – assistance up to \$5,000 for movement of stock, feed, machinery, fuel, water and building/fencing materials.
- **Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme** – to alleviate hardship and distress (emergent, contents replacement and building repair/replacement grants). This includes individual assistance of up to \$10,100 and couple/family assistance up to \$13,600.
- **Associations Natural Disaster Relief Scheme** – to assist associations to re-establish facilities. Consists of a combination of loan and grant assistance up to maximum amounts of \$100,000 loan and \$5,000 grant for any one applicant.

The activation threshold for the 2008–2009 reporting period was \$240,000. Local government triggers ranged from \$150,000 to \$1.8 million, with a \$50,000 concessional trigger remaining in place for some eligible councils.

The cost sharing formula between the Australian and Queensland Governments for the 2008–2009 reporting period was as follows:

	\$0 to \$71.960M	\$71.960M to \$125.929M	> \$125.929M
Funded by	100% Queensland Government	50% Queensland Government / 50% Australian Government	25% Queensland Government / 75% Australian Government

New NDRRA Activations for 2008–2009

Disaster Event	Location	Date
Queensland Storms and Associated Flooding November 2008	South East Queensland	16 to 22 November 2008
Queensland Monsoonal flooding and TCs Charlotte and Ellie	North West Queensland	January – February 2009
TC Hamish	South East Queensland coastal communities	5 to 11 March 2009
Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Fraser Coast Flooding	Sunshine Coast and Gympie	April 2009
South East Queensland Low	South East Queensland	May 2009

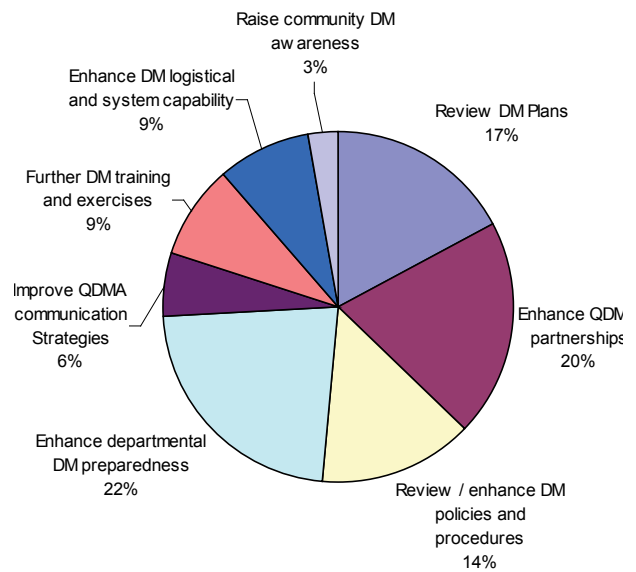
NDRRA Activations finalised in 2008–2009

Disaster Event	Location	Date
Northern and Western Queensland Flooding	North and West Queensland	June 2007
Northern and Western Queensland Flooding and TC Nelson	North and West Queensland	January – February 2007
South East Queensland Storms	South East Queensland	December 2006
TC Larry and TC Monica and associated Flooding	North Queensland	March – April 2006

Disaster Management Priorities for 2009–2010

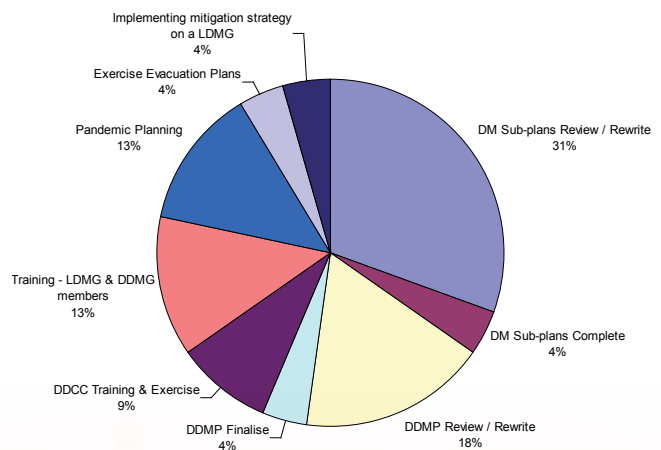
SDMG Member Agencies

When asked to identify their disaster management priorities for the 2009-2010 reporting period, 22% of SDMG member agencies indicated that enhancing departmental preparedness was the key focus for the coming year, followed by enhancing partnerships within the QDMA (20%) and reviewing and enhancing disaster management plans, policies and procedures (14%).



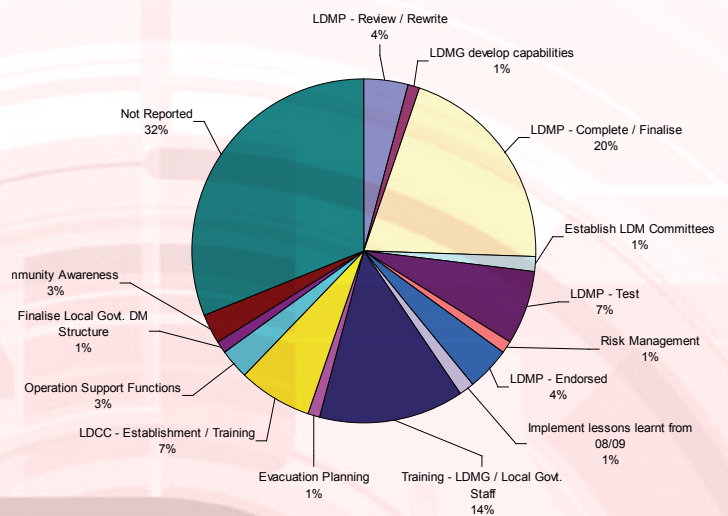
DDMG

For the 2009-2010 reporting period, 31% of DDMGs identified that reviewing and rewriting disaster management sub-plans was their top priority, followed by reviewing of DDMP (18%).



LDMG

Of the 74 LDMGs, 50 indicated they have established priorities for the 2009-2010 reporting period. Of the identified priorities, 20% indicated that completing and finalising LDMP was their key focus for the coming year.



Glossary

Elements of the Strategic Policy Framework

Background: The COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements* (2002) identified the need for a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management, particularly with the emergence of new threats such as terrorism and threads of a pandemic. This approach, including the disaster management elements were adopted in the development of the SPF.

Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, s13(1)</i>
Disaster management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster. (Disaster Management Act 2003, s14)
Disaster mitigation	The means taken in advance of, or after, a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster preparedness	Arrangements that ensure that, should an emergency occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster research	May be broadly understood as a systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area. <i>Disaster Management Act 2003, S80(2)</i>
Disaster response	Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster relief and recovery	Disaster relief is the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional social, economic, physical wellbeing. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Disaster risk assessment	The process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria. <i>COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)</i>
Policy and governance	Policy and governance elements ensure clear direction of disaster management priorities, resource allocation and accountability through sound performance management and risk management for the whole disaster management system.

Further Information

Further information may be obtained through the following websites:

Disaster Management Act 2003

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2003/03AC091.pdf>

Disaster management arrangements in Queensland

www.disaster.gov.au and www.emergency.qld.gov.au

Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications

Emergency Management Australia

<http://www.ema.gov.au/>

Emergency Management Queensland

<http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/>

Emergency Service Units

www.emergency.qld.gov.au/esu

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

[http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_\(NDRRA\)](http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_(NDRRA))

State Disaster Management Group Annual Reports

<http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/>

State Emergency Services

www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses

Acronyms used in this report

AEMC.....	Australian Emergency Management Committee	LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
ADF.....	Australian Defence Force	LDMP.....	Local Disaster Management Plan
AGD.....	Attorney-General's Department	LGAQ	Local Government Association Queensland
AQUAVETPLAN .	<i>Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan</i>	MCPEM.....	Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management
ATWS	Australian Tsunami Warning System	MCPEM-EM	Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management – Emergency Management
AUSBURNPLAN	<i>Australian Mass Casualty Burn Disaster Plan</i>	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AUSVETPLAN....	<i>Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan</i>	MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
BOB.....	Baby Ocean Buoy	NCTC.....	National Counter-Terrorism Committee
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology	NDAWG.....	National Disaster Arrangements Working Group
CBRC	Cabinet Budget Review Committee	NDMP	Natural Disaster Mitigation Program
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NDRRA.....	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
CIPMA.....	Critical Infrastructure and Protection Modelling Analysis Program	NEWS	National Emergency Warning System
COAG.....	Council of Australian Governments	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
COMDISPLAN...	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan	PLANTPLAN.....	<i>Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan</i>
Communities ...	Department of Communities	PPRR.....	Prevention (mitigation), Preparedness, Response and Recovery
COMRECEPLAN.	<i>Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas</i>	QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	QDMA.....	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
DACC	Defence Aid to the Civil Community	QEOC.....	Queensland Emergency Operations Centre
DCS	Department of Community Safety	QFRS.....	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
DDC.....	District Disaster Coordinator	QHealth	Queensland Health
DDMG.....	District Disaster Management Group	QPS	Queensland Police Service
DDMP	District Disaster Management Plan	QR	Queensland Rail
DEEDI	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	QRECEPLAN	<i>Queensland Reception Plan October 2008</i>
DERM.....	Department of Environment and Resource Management	QTCCC.....	Queensland Tropical Cyclone Coordination Committee
DET.....	Department of Education and Training	RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
DIP	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
DM Act	<i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i>	SDCG	State Disaster Coordination Group
DM Alliance	Disaster Management Alliance	SDMC	State Disaster Mitigation Committee
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	SDMG	State Disaster Management Group
DPW	Department of Public Works	SDMP	State Disaster Management Plan
DRP	Disaster Resilience Package	SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
DTMR.....	Department of Transport and Main Roads	SES.....	State Emergency Service
EIDI.....	Employment, Industry Development and Innovation (a division of DEEDI)	SHECC	State Emergency Coordination Centre (QHealth)
EMA.....	Emergency Management Australia	SPF	Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland	SSQ.....	Smart Service Queensland
GOC.....	Government-Owned Corporation	TC.....	Tropical Cyclone
JAG	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Treasury.....	Queensland Treasury
JATWC	Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre	VMR.....	Volunteer Marine Rescue
JOSS	Australian Defence Force Joint Operations Support Staff	WDO.....	Watch Desk Officer
		XO	Executive Officer

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