



2003-2004

State Disaster Management Group
Annual Report



Queensland Government
State Disaster Management Group

Table of contents

LETTER OF TRANSMISSION	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS	5
OVERVIEW OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	7
LEGISLATION.....	7
DEFINITION OF DISASTER.....	7
QUEENSLAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STRUCTURE.....	7
Figure 1 - The Queensland Disaster Management System.....	8
ELEMENTS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.....	8
Major Incidents Group.....	8
State Disaster Management Group.....	9
District Disaster Management Groups.....	9
Local Disaster Management Groups.....	9
Functional Arrangements.....	10
Threat Specific Arrangements.....	10
ACTIVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS.....	11
Activation of the Queensland Disaster Management System.....	11
Declaration of a Disaster Situation.....	11
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	12
COMMONWEALTH/STATE NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS (NDRA) PROGRAM.....	12
Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRSA).....	12
State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA).....	13
Notes on the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements Program.....	13
Disaster Event Summaries.....	14
NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS (NPW) PROGRAM.....	20
FUNCTIONAL LEAD AGENCY REPORTS.....	20
Allocation of Functional Lead Agency Status.....	20
Functional Lead Agency Responsibility.....	20
Figure 2: Functional Support Arrangements.....	21
Department of Communities.....	22
Queensland Transport.....	22
Queensland Health.....	23
Department of Public Works.....	24
Department of Energy.....	26

Department of Emergency Services.....	27
THREAT SPECIFIC AGENCY REPORTS	27
General	27
Allocation of Lead Agency Status	27
Threat Specific Lead Agency Responsibility.....	28
Department of Energy.....	28
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.....	28
Figure 3: Threat Specific Support Arrangements	29
Queensland Transport – Maritime Safety Queensland.....	30
Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	31
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY.....*	32
STATE DISASTER COORDINATION CENTRE	32
Bureau of Meteorology *	36
Disaster Coordination – Citrus Canker	39
TRAINING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES	39
Disaster Management Training	39
Emergency Management Australia Institute	40
Public Awareness Campaigns	40
STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENTS	40
Upgraded Communications	40
Storm Tide Warning–Response System	40
State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act Review.....	41
Local Government Planning Guidelines.....	41
State Disaster Management Plan	41
Standstill Zones	41
Exercise Fast Ball.....*	41
Counter-terrorism Projects.....	42
Carriage of Postal Articles during Resupply Operations	42
OTHER REPORTS	43
Insurance Council of Australia	43
Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) Steering Committee Issues	43

Letter of transmission

The Hon Chris Cummins MP
Minister for Emergency Services

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) for the period 2003-2004 in accordance with Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act 2003. This Report is the first produced by the SDMG and highlights the actions undertaken by agencies that support the Queensland disaster management system.

It is intended that this Report be distributed to all State Government Departments and Local Governments and other non government agencies that contribute to the Queensland Disaster Management System. It will also be available at www.emergency.qld.gov.au and www.disaster.qld.gov.au for reference purposes by the community.

The Report demonstrates that disaster management is a complex undertaking that requires a comprehensive approach if it is to be effective. It is recognised that counter disaster planning and response is not a task for the SDMG alone and that all Queenslanders must understand and consider the risks involved and act to protect themselves and their neighbours if this State is to become a safer and more supportive place.

I commend the Report to you.

Yours sincerely

Dr Leo Keliher
Chairperson
State Disaster Management Group

Executive summary

The State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) was established under Section 17 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. It replaces the former State Counter Disaster Organisation and the Central Control Group, established under the *State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act 1975*.

This is the first Annual Report issued by the SDMG. It records achievements within Queensland's Disaster Management System over the past year and seeks to forecast future challenges.

The report contains three sections. The first section provides an overview describing the arrangements and structures employed in Queensland to manage disaster events. The second section contains program reports. The final section provides a summary of operational activities during the past year.

Queensland has much to be proud of in relation to its response to disaster events in the past. However, it is critical that we are not complacent and that we continue to improve the resilience of the community and our infrastructure and also our capacity to respond and recover from disaster events.

It was therefore pleasing to note that during the recent audit of the Queensland disaster management system undertaken by the Queensland Audit Office, that:

- “audit... found that across all levels of government, systems were in place to plan for and deal with the consequences of disasters”; and
- “...the audit has not identified any evidence to indicate that the disaster management system has failed to respond to disasters or support the community”.

The report did, however, identify areas to enhance the existing system through better integration, monitoring, performance management and a more robust governance and risk management framework.

The State's Disaster Management System is a whole of Government system that requires a commitment from all levels of Government, all agencies and Government Departments to deliver a comprehensive framework that is responsive to community needs. Recognising this, a number of key initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen the system.

These include:

- The review of *State Counter-Disaster Organisation (SCDO) Act 1975*, the subsequent introduction into the Parliament in November 2003 of the Disaster Management Bill 2003, and the proclamation of the Disaster Management Act 2003 in March 2004. The Act is considered to be the most contemporary disaster management legislation in Australia.
- Queensland has been a key driver and supporter of reform in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review of *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming Mitigation, Relief and Recovery Arrangements*. The COAG report recommends a series of twelve reform commitments contained in 66 recommendations for implementation over a five-year period, further developing and fine-tuning disaster management arrangements across all levels of Government.
- Departments have been very active in the development of crisis and management arrangements as part of the Government's response to the threat of terrorism. The integration of the disaster management system into counter-terrorism planning, and the development of robust systems to support counter-terrorism activities has been a point of focus.

Major achievements

The Queensland disaster management system has attained a number of significant achievements in the 2003-2004 year which are summarised as follows:

- A comprehensive review of the *State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act 1975* in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders resulted in the development of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. This legislation, which was proclaimed on 31 March 2004, provides Queensland with the most comprehensive and contemporary legislation on disaster management anywhere in Australia.
- Introduced a key reform recommended in the COAG report - The Natural Disaster and Mitigation Programme - on 1 April 2004. Introduction of the recommendations will enhance community safety through providing funding for a range of natural disaster mitigation measures such as increasing the resilience of infrastructure, undertaking risk assessments and other studies, conducting community awareness campaigns, improving warning systems and engaging in research.
- Further implementation of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* included production of declared disaster officer vests, liaison with the Queensland Police Service, and further education for District Disaster Coordinators and Executive Officers of District Disaster Management Groups.
- Severe weather and flood events are the cause of most natural disaster damage in Queensland. In 2003-2004 these events cost the Queensland Government \$98.9M, and cost individuals and communities untold financial and emotional pain. The International Conference on Storms was hosted in Brisbane in July 2004. The final day of the Conference had a special focus on mitigating the impacts of storms. This provided a very effective means of increasing the understanding of these issues, as a special registration was organised for this final day and over 70 State and local government officers attended.
- Continued management of the Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program (NDRMSP) and the new Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). The NDRMSP has provided over \$16.2M to fund 204 applications for studies to quantify natural disaster risks facing Queensland communities and identify treatment options. 35 projects were approved in 2003-2004 with a total value of \$3.77 million. The NDMP has funded 16 Queensland projects with a total value over three years of \$4.36 million. These projects include riverine flood works, disaster management planning, cyclone shelter and building materials research and improving the resilience of roads infrastructure from flooding for regional communities.
- Involvement in the National Counter Terrorism exercise (Exercise Fast Ball) in October 2003, involving activation of the National Counter Terrorism arrangements focussing on crisis and community consequence management issues arising from a terrorist incident. This was the first time that this type of exercise had been conducted in Australia.
- Contributed to the development of State and National Counter Terrorism procedures.
- Agencies supported the Government Agency Preparedness project (GAP). The GAP project aims to ensure departments are able to manage business continuity within the global context of the terrorism environment. Basic areas of examination include general security, evacuation procedures, IT support systems, critical infrastructure and asset protection.
- Reviewed Terms of Reference for the State Disaster Management Group, and the committees that sit under it – The State Disaster Coordination Group, the State Disaster Mitigation Committee, and the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Steering Committee. The terms of reference were reviewed in accordance with the implementation requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

- On 1 September 2003, *State Planning Policy 1/03: Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide* was introduced. This involved significant consultation with Local Governments, the development industry and the community. *State Planning Policy 1/03* applies to the amendment of planning schemes and development assessment. *State Planning Policy 1/03* provides a means by which Queensland is meeting agreed reform commitments arising from the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) reforms. These commitments include ensuring that land use planning, development and building control regimes systematically identify natural hazards and include requirements to reduce the risk of damage in areas subject to significant risk of flood, bushfire, cyclone, storm surge and landslide.
- Developed, promoted and distributed the Tropical Storm Tide Warning Response System booklet in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Completed a joint research project into climate change and coastal community vulnerability to tropical cyclones with the Bureau of Meteorology, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- Continued support to the State Disaster Mitigation Committee and the Queensland Tropical Cyclone Coordination Committee (QTCCC) to oversee preparations for the implementation of the reforms from the COAG Review of disaster relief and mitigation and the series of severe weather seminars which targeted high risk coastal communities.
- Conducted a public awareness campaign, focussing on severe storms, storm surge, flood and cyclones. Public safety messages were promoted through television, newspapers and radio. Radio announcements were also broadcast via the National Indigenous Radio Service and the Torres Strait Islander Medical Association and where appropriate, translated into Kriol languages.
- A series of successful awareness and education seminars were delivered in partnership between the Department of Emergency Services, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Government Bureau of Meteorology. The seminars addressed cyclone, storm tide and flooding issues for vulnerable coastal communities and provided a forum for discussing issues of concern. The seminars were conducted in 11 locations from South East Queensland to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and were attended by nearly 400 representatives from State and Local Government, emergency services and other involved organisations.
- A draft disaster risk management guide for Queensland's Indigenous communities was developed and circulated for consultation with Indigenous communities and stakeholders.
- The production of "Guidelines for Developing Evacuation Plans for Dam Break Flooding" was completed. The Guidelines will help Local Government develop evacuation plans to apply in the event of flooding resulting from the failure of a dam.

Overview of Disaster Management System

LEGISLATION

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act) provides the legislative basis for disaster management arrangements in Queensland. It makes provision for the establishment of Disaster Management Groups for State, disaster districts and Local Government areas.

The Act also provides the legislative basis for the preparation of disaster management plans and guidelines, including the State Disaster Management Plan, which records agreed management arrangements for coordination of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery operations.

The Act establishes the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) as the key Queensland body responsible for the development of disaster management policy and coordination of the resources necessary to ensure that all steps are taken to plan for and counter the effects of disasters.

DEFINITION OF DISASTER

The Act defines a disaster as 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. A serious disruption is defined as:

- loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
- widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
- widespread or severe damage to the environment.

The event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions and means any of the following:

- a cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening;
- an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak;
- an infestation, plague or epidemic;
- a failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure;
- an attack against the State.

Disasters are not simply large-scale incidents. They require very different treatment which is reflected in planning and operational management systems. These systems must be able to address the needs of any community which is suffering from the effects of a disaster, and which requires outside assistance in order to cope.

QUEENSLAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STRUCTURE

Queensland's whole-of-Government disaster management system is based upon partnership arrangements between State and Local Governments. These partnership arrangements

recognise that each level of the Disaster Management System must not only work collaboratively but in unison to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.

The Queensland Disaster Management System comprises three tiers: Local, District and State. The System enables a progressive escalation of support and assistance through these tiers as required. A fourth level, the Commonwealth, is also included in our Disaster Management System, recognising that Queensland may need to seek Commonwealth support in times of severe disaster.

The System comprises several key management and coordination structures through which the functions of disaster management for Queensland are achieved. The principle structures that make up Queensland's Disaster Management System are:

- Disaster Management Groups that operate at State, District and Local levels and which are responsible for the planning, organisation, coordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate/prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster situations;
- Coordination Centres at State, District and Local levels that support Disaster Management Groups in coordinating information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations;

- State Government Functional Lead Agencies through which the functions and responsibilities of the State Government in relation to disaster management are managed and coordinated;
- State Government Threat Specific Lead Agencies responsible for the management and coordination of combating specific threats; and
- Committees, either permanent or temporary, established under the authority of the Disaster Management Groups for specific purposes relating to disaster management.

Management of a disaster at the community level is conducted by Local Governments who are responsible for the implementation of their Local Disaster Management Plan. If Local Governments require additional resources to manage the event, they are able to request support from their District Disaster Coordinator. This allows for the rapid mobilisation of resources at a regional or district level. If District resources are inadequate or inappropriate, requests for assistance can be passed to State via the State Disaster Coordination Centre. Finally, when State resources are inadequate or inappropriate, support from the Commonwealth can be obtained via Emergency Management Australia.

ELEMENTS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A brief summary of each of the key components of the Queensland Disaster Management System is provided below:

Major Incidents Group

The Queensland Government has established a Major Incidents Group (MIG) to provide high level Ministerial guidance and support in the event of a significant incident with major community consequences. Conceptually, membership of the MIG would be determined on an incident-by-incident basis and may include, but not be limited to:

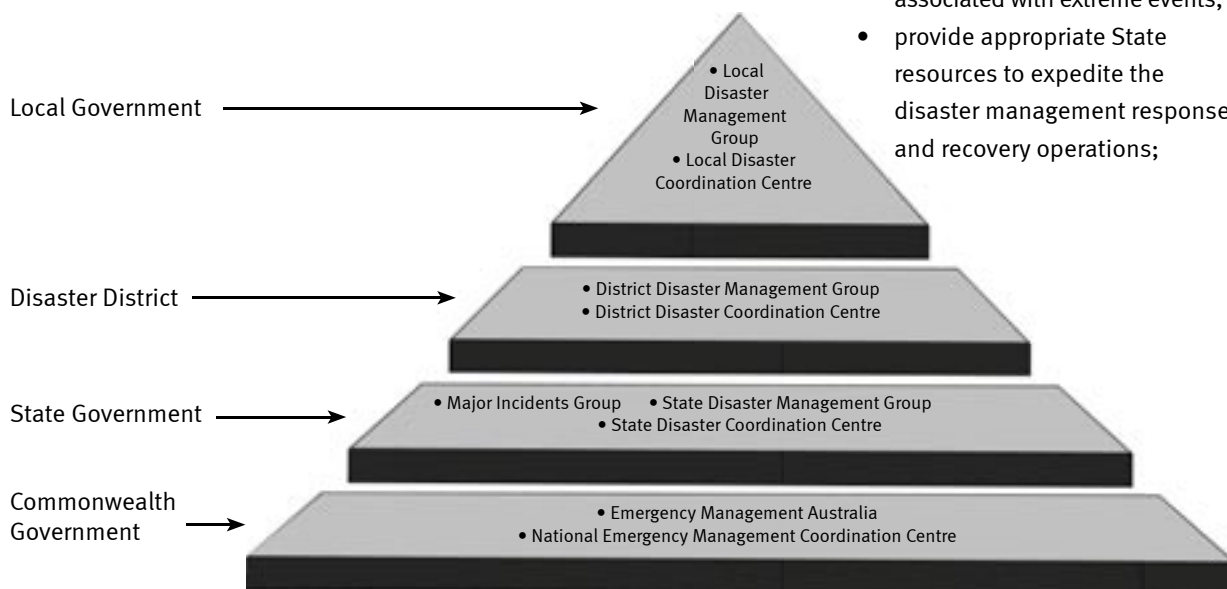
- Premier (Chair)
- Attorney-General
- Minister for Police
- Minister for Emergency Services
- Minister for Health

If activated, the MIG will:

- provide leadership to the disaster management response and recovery operations associated with extreme events;
- provide appropriate State resources to expedite the disaster management response and recovery operations;

8
Figure 1 depicts the Queensland Disaster Management System including the link to the Commonwealth for National-level support when required.

Figure 1 - The Queensland Disaster Management System



- determine the State Government public information and media strategy; and
- liaise with the State Crisis Centre (if activated) to ensure effective integration of crisis and consequence management strategies.

State Disaster Management Group

The State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) was established under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Membership of the SDMG

The SDMG currently consists of the following:

- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Chairperson);
- Director-General, Department of Emergency Services (Deputy Chairperson);
- Commissioner of Police;
- Director-General, Department of State Development and Innovation;
- Director-General, Department of Health;
- Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries;
- Director-General, Department of Local Government and Planning;
- Director-General, Department of Communities;
- Director-General, Department of Public Works;
- Director-General, Department of Transport;

- Executive Director, Counter Disaster and Rescue Services, Department of Emergency Services as Executive Officer.

Note: Other CEOs can be called upon by the SDMG to provide advice and departmental assistance as required.

Functions of the SDMG

The SDMG is the peak policy and planning group for disaster management in Queensland. The main functions of the SDMG include:

- developing a strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;
- ensuring effective disaster management is developed and implemented for the State;
- ensuring effective disaster management arrangements between the State and the Commonwealth are established and maintained;
- identifying resources, in and outside the State, that may be used for disaster operations;
- providing disaster management and disaster operations reports and recommendations to the Minister for Emergency Services; and
- preparing the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP).

The SDMG is supported by:

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

- a committee responsible for providing strategic level direction for the development of a whole-of-Government chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) response capability – the CBR Steering Committee.

District Disaster Management Groups

There are 23 Disaster Districts in Queensland, based on Police Districts. The senior Police Officer in each district is designated as the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and chairs the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG). These DDMGs, established under the Act, comprise representatives from regionally-based Queensland Government Departments who are able to provide and coordinate whole-of-Government support to disaster stricken communities. The Districts perform a 'middle' management function within the Disaster Management System by providing coordinated State Government support when requested by Local Governments.

Local Disaster Management Groups

Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG) are established by the Act to coordinate the response to a disaster at a local level. The Mayor usually chairs the Group. LDMGs develop and maintain Counter Disaster Plans for their Shire. These Groups are best placed to decide what resources are needed, when they are needed and how best to apply such resources so as to minimise hardship and suffering. They play a key role in the Queensland Disaster Management System.

Functional Arrangements

To provide for the effective coordination of State-level capabilities in disaster management, Queensland has adopted the concept of Functional Lead Agencies. Each Functional Lead Agency is responsible to the SDMG for the provision of specific State Government services, expertise and support, as needed, to communities or to the Queensland Government prior to, during and after disaster events.

Functional Lead Agencies are nominated on the basis of their core functions and are given Lead Agency status *within the State Government* for the provision of specific services or support. The specific requirements for each function are established under Memoranda of Understanding between each of the Functional Agencies and the Department of Emergency Services. The allocation of Functional Lead Agency status to Government Departments is shown below:

Function	Lead Agency
Community Recovery	Department of Communities
Transport and Transport Engineering	Department of Transport
Health	Department of Health
Building and Engineering Services	Department of Public Works
Emergency Supply	Department of Public Works
Communications	Department of Public Works
Electricity/Fuel/Gas Supply	Department of Energy
Coordination of Disaster Management System	Department of Emergency Services

Threat Specific Arrangements

In addition to Functional Lead Agency responsibilities, Queensland has identified a number of specific threats where Government Departments and agencies have a designated lead agency role. These lead agencies are allocated responsibility to prepare for, and to combat, the specific threats based on their core business.

The Disaster Management System in Queensland coordinates resources in support of lead

agency combat operations as required but remains responsible for the wider management of the consequences of the specific threat under arrangements described above.

Representatives of Threat-specific Lead Agencies are members of the State Disaster Coordination Group and may have membership of Disaster Management Groups at District and Local level as required.

The allocation of threat-specific Lead Agency status to Government Departments is as follows:

Lead Agency	Threat
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Emergency Services	Bushfire
Department of Transport (Maritime Safety Queensland)	Oil Spill at Sea
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Emergency Animal/Plant Disease
Department of Energy	Electricity/Fuel/Gas Supply
Queensland Health	Human Epidemic

ACTIVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Activation of the Queensland Disaster Management System

Activation of the Disaster Management System can occur when there is a need for:

- operational coordination to monitor potential threats or response operations;
- operational coordination to support response operations being conducted by a designated combatant agency;
- coordination of resources in support of disaster response and recovery operations at Local Government or District level; or
- State-wide disaster response and recovery operations.

Activation of the Disaster Management System at District and Local level can be initiated respectively by:

- the Chair of the DDMG; or
- the Chair of LDMG.

Advice of activation is conveyed to the Counter Disaster and Rescue Services (CDRS) of the Department of Emergency Services.

Activation at State level can be through:

- the Chair, SDMG; or
- the Executive Director, CDRS.

Activation at State level will often be in response to activation at District level or activation of a threat specific Lead Agency.

Declaration of a Disaster Situation

On rare occasions, a District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) may require additional authority or powers to manage the consequences of a disaster event (e.g. if there is a need to direct an area to be evacuated). In these cases a disaster situation may be declared. This request is managed through the State Disaster Coordination Centre.

A declaration would usually only be required if the DDC (or a declared disaster officer) needed the additional powers it provided. It is important to note that it is not necessary to declare a disaster situation to activate the Disaster Management System, or to obtain financial assistance through established disaster relief schemes.

The Premier and/or the Minister for Emergency Services may declare a disaster situation for the State, or a part of the State. Again, this would only occur to allow a DDC or a declared disaster officer to exercise declared disaster powers.

A DDC (or a declared disaster officer) may exercise these powers during the period of a disaster situation to:

- ensure public safety or public order;
- prevent or minimise loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans or animals; and/or
- prevent or minimise property loss or damage, or damage to the environment.

Full details of the powers provided during a disaster situation are contained in the Act. However, in general they include:

- the power to control the movements of people, animals and vehicles (including evacuation);
- the power to control the supply of equipment and services;
- the power to commandeer property or equipment; and
- the power to remove or destroy animals, property, and/or equipment.

Program Overview

COMMONWEALTH/ STATE NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS (NDRA) PROGRAM

The prime mechanism utilised by the Queensland Government for providing assistance to communities affected by natural disaster events is the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA/SDRA).

These longstanding arrangements provide a cost sharing formula (between the Queensland and Commonwealth Government) as well as a range of pre-agreed relief measures which may be activated by the Queensland Government immediately following a disaster event, once a need has been established.

The Commonwealth Minister for Finance determines terms and conditions of assistance under NDRA (including loan and subsidy ceilings). All assistance schemes must comply with the determination of the Minister for Emergency Services.

During 2003-2004, natural disaster funding arrangements were activated for the following disaster events. Expenditure commitments from these disaster events totalled \$99 million.

Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA)

South East Queensland Storms

– 24 to 26 October 2003

Relief Measures activated:

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets

Area defined for assistance

- Communities in South East Queensland and Darling Downs affected by severe storms between 24 and 26 October 2003.

Western and Southern Downs Flooding – December 2003

Relief Measures activated:

- Restoration of public assets

Area defined for assistance

- Communities within the Western and Southern Downs affected by flooding from 6 December 2003.

Peak Downs Flooding – December 2003

Relief Measures activated:

- Restoration of public assets

Area defined for assistance

- Communities within Peak Downs Shire affected by flooding on 11 and 12 December 2003.

Northern and western Queensland Flooding from January 2004

Relief Measures activated:

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets

- Concessional loans to primary producers #

Area defined for assistance

- Communities within Northern and Western Queensland affected by storms and flooding (including Tropical Cyclone Fritz and Tropical Cyclone Grace) from January 2004.

South East Queensland Storms – January 2004

Relief Measures activated:

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets
- Concessional loans to primary producers #

Area defined for assistance

- Communities within South East Queensland affected by storm activity from a persistent trough and low pressure system commencing 24 January 2004 and continuing into late January 2004.

South East Queensland Eastcoast Low – 4-6 March 2004

Relief Measures activated:

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets

Area defined for assistance

- Communities in South East Queensland affected by wind, wave and flood action from an Eastcoast low pressure system between 4 and 6 March 2004.

Affected Primary Producers to be considered on an Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) basis.

State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

Citrus Canker

Consequence management contingency planning following the Citrus Canker outbreak identified SDRA as a potential mechanism to address personal hardship relief assistance measures and related costs. As the outbreak was confined within a single property, SDRA was not required. All costs incurred related to disease control expenditure funded under National pest control cost sharing arrangements administered by Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

- There were no SDRA activations in 2003-2004.

Notes on the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements Program

- The Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) provide a cost sharing formula between the State and Commonwealth Governments as well as a package of pre-agreed relief measures that may be activated by the Queensland Government on a needs basis.
- Under the cost sharing formula for 2003-2004, Queensland was required to meet a 'base' initial amount of \$42.4M. The next \$31.8M was to be equally shared Commonwealth 50% and State 50%. Expenditure in excess of \$74.2M was to be shared Commonwealth 75% and State 25%.
- NDRA relief measures are not compensation based. Assistance is targeted at those in the communities who are

unable to provide for their own recovery. The relief schemes are essentially a 'safety-net' for those affected by disasters.

- Eligible natural disasters under NDRA include any one of, or combination of, the natural phenomena; Bushfire, Cyclone, Earthquake, Flood, Storm, Storm Surge, and also Landslide, consequential upon an eligible event. Eligible disasters do not include disasters where poor environmental planning, commercial development, personal intervention or accidents are significant contributing factors to the event. Social, environmental and technological disasters are ineligible.
- The threshold amount for activation of State/Commonwealth funding is \$200,000. For isolated disaster events that do not reach the \$200,000 threshold, State funded Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) apply to relief measures for community response and assistance to individuals.
- The package of pre-approved natural disaster relief measures include schemes for needy individuals, community response activities, asset restoration and assistance to primary producers, small business owners and the assets of non-profit organisations.
- Community response (counter-disaster operations) is administered by the Department of Emergency Services through Counter Disaster and Rescue Services.
- The Department of Communities administers assistance to needy individuals. Assistance categories include emergency assistance, replacement of essential household contents and dwelling repairs to return homes to a habitable and secure condition. With the exception of emergency assistance payments, eligibility for all other assistance categories is means tested.
- The Department of Communities administers assistance to Clubs, Churches, Sporting Associations and Non-Profit Organisations. Loans with an accompanying grant are available to facilitate the re-establishment of damaged facilities.
- The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority administers concessional loan assistance to disaster affected primary production and small business enterprises. Upper limits – A cumulative total of \$150,000 per applicant applies consisting of carry-on (max \$100,000) and restocking (max \$100,000).
- The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries administers freight subsidy schemes for primary producers. These schemes are tailored to address specific needs following a disaster event and may apply to the movement of food, building materials, stock, fodder, or machinery. Concessions of up to 50% may be approved. A maximum

subsidy ceiling of \$5,000 applies to Commonwealth/ State funded schemes.

- The Department of Local Government and Planning administers asset restoration funding for Local Governments and Community Councils. Following activation of the restoration of public assets NDRA relief measure, Councils are considered for assistance once the cost of the eligible works exceeds their 'trigger-point' amount.
- Trading undertakings of State and Local Governments are ineligible for NDRA asset

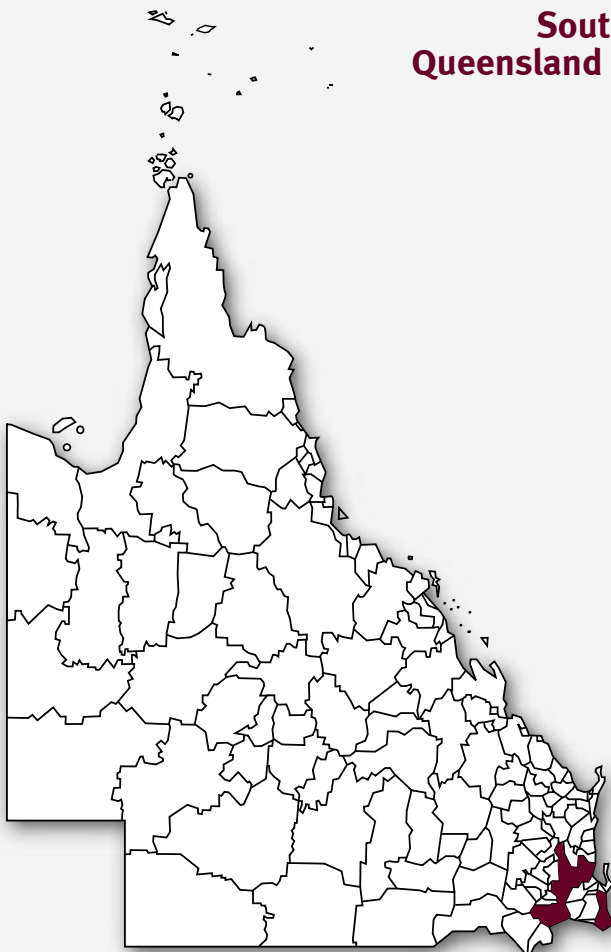
restoration funding. Ineligible trading undertakings include Public Transport, Ports and Waterways, Housing, Garbage Collection, Electricity and Gas, Aerodromes and Abattoirs and also Water Supply and Sewerage. Significant damage to the undertakings of smaller Local Governments (where the undertakings are funded with significant public contributions) may be considered on a case by case basis.

- Trigger-points for larger Councils are calculated at 1% of general revenue receipts. Smaller Councils' trigger-

points are calculated as a percentage of Queensland's 'base' amount. For 2003-2004 the trigger-point amount for smaller Local Governments (for consideration of NDRA funding) was \$106,000.

- Councils with a rate revenue base of less than \$3M become eligible for a trigger-point/ maximum contribution of \$50,000 (instead of \$106,000) following completion of a disaster risk assessment based on Australian and New Zealand Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360:1999.

South East Queensland Storm



Disaster Event Summaries

South East Queensland Storms

– 24 to 26 October 2003

Event Timing and Location:

Storm fronts passed across the South Eastern area of Queensland on Friday 24 October and Saturday 25 October and in the early afternoon of Sunday 26 October 2003 impacting South East Queensland and the Darling Downs.

The most severe storms occurred on Sunday 26 October 2003, producing strong winds, heavy rain and large hail causing damage to properties.

Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated Commonwealth/Natural State Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA/SDRSA). NDRA Relief Measures Activated*:

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets

* *Details of NDRA relief measures and NDRA Administering Authorities are available from: <http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/#7>*

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures – “Communities in South East Queensland and Darling Downs affected by severe storms between 24 and 26 October 2003”.

Local Government Areas affected: Brisbane, Esk, Gatton, Gold Coast, Laidley, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba and Warwick.

Western and Southern Downs Flooding – December 2003

Event Timing and Location: Storms and heavy rainfall in the 36 hours to Saturday 6 December 2003 caused flooding in the Weir, O’Connor and Condamine River Systems. Flood damage occurred to adjacent road networks.

Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated Commonwealth/Natural State Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA/SDRA). NDRA Relief Measures Activated*:

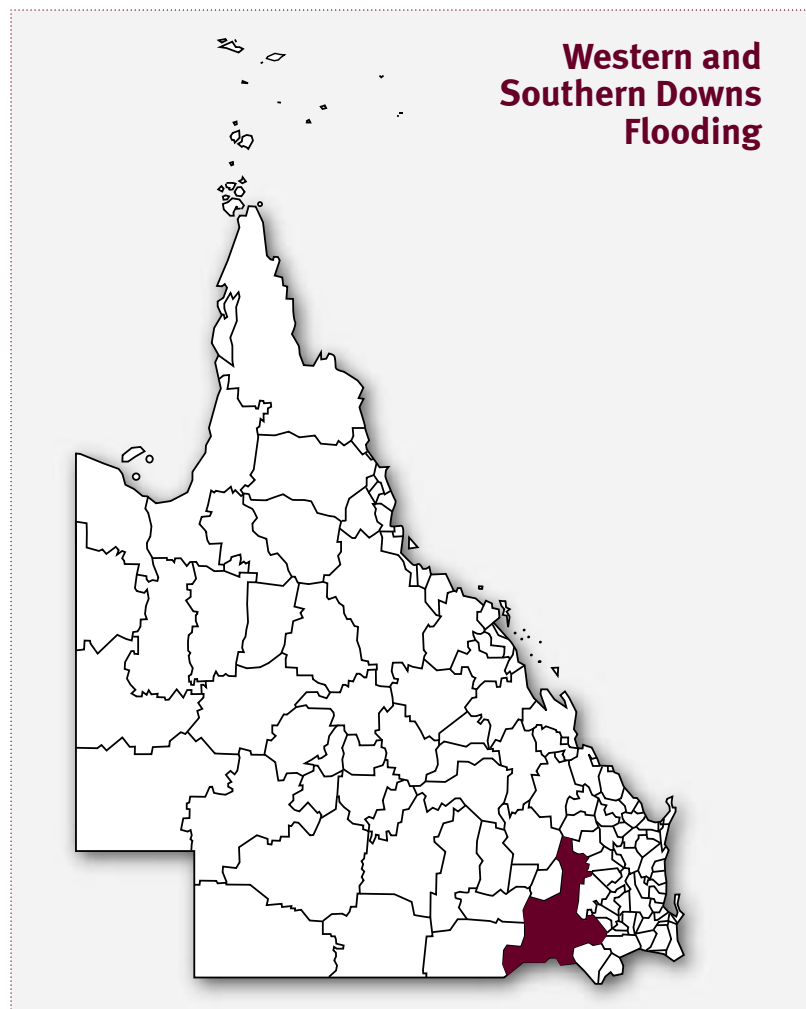
- Restoration of public assets.

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures -

“Communities within the Western and Southern Downs affected by flooding from 6 December 2003”.

Local Government Areas affected: Millmerran, Tara, Waggamba and Wambo.

For administrative purposes, flood damage to public assets within Millmerran and Waggamba for this event is combined into the later NDRA event Western Queensland Flooding from January 2004.



Peak Downs Flooding – December 2003

Event Timing and Location: On 11 and 12 December 2003, heavy rainfall caused flash flooding across Peak Downs Shire. Flood damage occurred to road and rail networks.

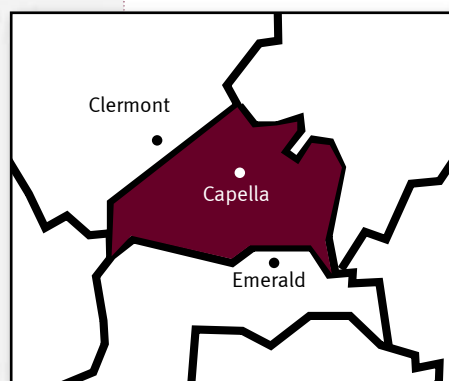
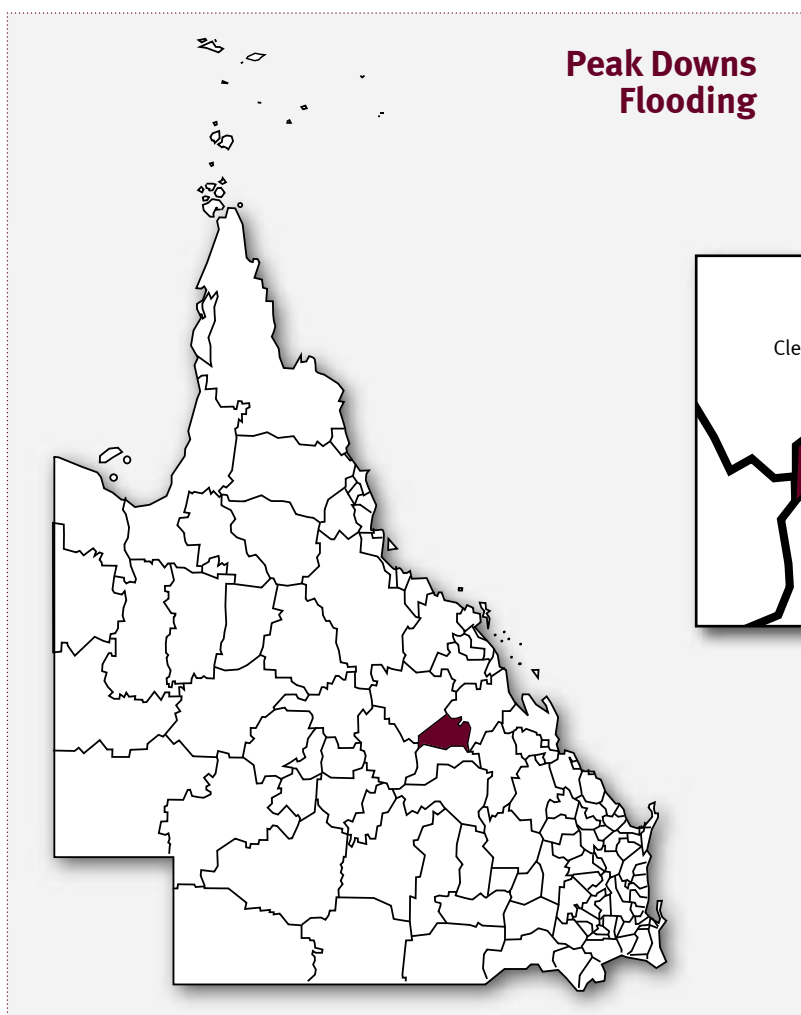
Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated Commonwealth/Natural/State Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA/SDRA). NDRA Relief Measures Activated*

- Restoration of public assets

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures: “Communities within Peak Downs Shire affected by flooding on 11 and 12 December 2003”.

Local Government Area/s affected:

- Peak Downs



Northern and Western Queensland Flooding from January 2004

Event Timing and Location: In early January 2004, storms and heavy rainfall associated with tropical low-pressure systems caused flooding across Gulf of Carpentaria and Western Queensland Districts.

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Fritz formed on 10 February 2004, crossed the eastern Cape York coastline in the vicinity of Princess Charlotte Bay in the early hours of 11 February 2004. TC Fritz degenerated into a rain depression that moved across the Cape causing flooding to Far Northern and Gulf Districts.

From 15 March 2004 a tropical low (subsequently TC Grace) caused flooding and landslips across Far North Queensland communities between Cardwell and Cooktown.

Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated the Commonwealth/Natural/State Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA).

NDRA Relief Measures Activated*

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets
- Concessional Loans to Small Businesses
- Concessional loans to primary producers #

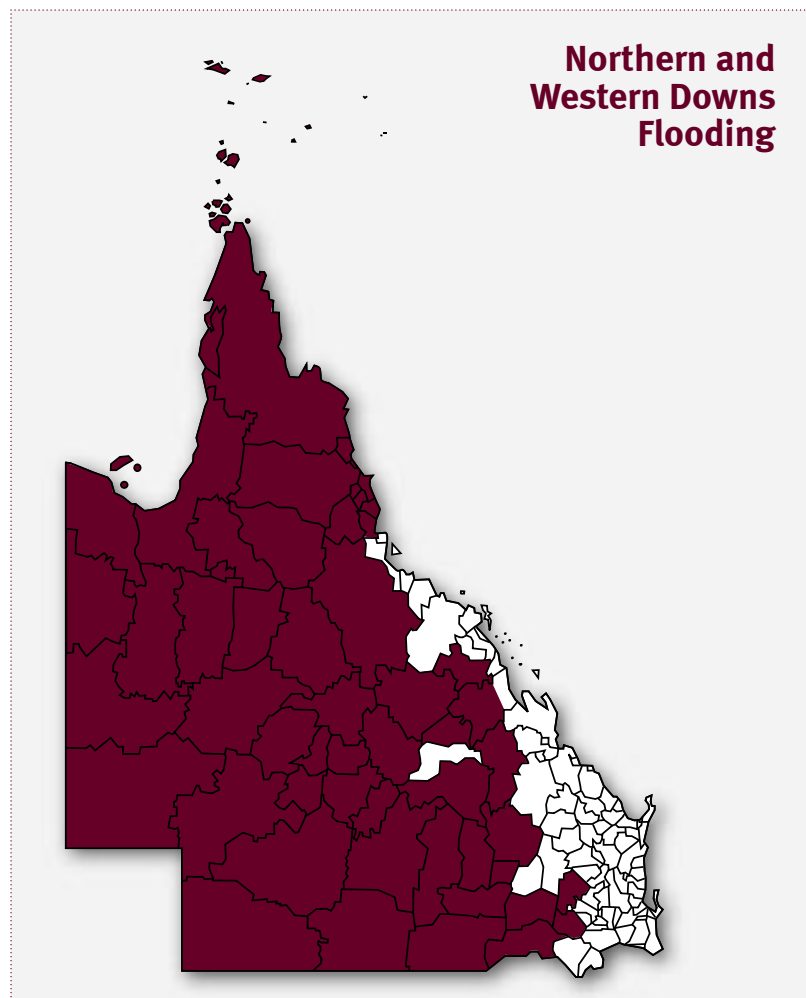
Affected Primary Producers to be considered on an Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) basis. Primary Producers should contact their local Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Office.

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures - "Communities within Northern and Western Queensland affected by storms and Flooding (incl TC Fritz and TC Grace) from January 2004".

Local Government Areas: Aramac, Atherton, Aurukun, Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Bauhinia, Belyando, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Boulia, Broadsound (western portion) Bulloo, Bungil, Burke, Cairns, Carpentaria, Cardwell, Cloncurry, Cook, Croydon, Dalby, Dalrymple, Doomadgee, Diamantina, Douglas, Duaringa, Eacham, Etheridge, Flinders, Herberton, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho,

Johnstone, Kowanyama, Longreach, Lockhart River, Mareeba, McKinlay, Millmerran, Mornington Island, Mt Isa, Murweh, Nebo, Paroo, Peak Downs, Pompurow, Quilpie, Roma, Richmond, Tambo, Tara, Taroom, Wambo, Warroo, Waggamba, Winton and Wugal Wugal. The area will progressively be extended as damage advices are received.

For administrative purposes, flood damage to Local Government assets within Millmerran and Waggamba Shires is regarded as including damage from the previous NDRA flooding event Western and Southern Downs Flooding December 2003.



South East Queensland Storms January 2004

Event Timing and Location:

On Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 January, severe storm activity occurred across Southeast Districts. The affected area stretched from Gold Coast and the southern Downs, north to Wide Bay Burnett and west to the eastern Downs. Storm activity of varying intensity continued on 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 January across the same areas. The storms resulted from a trough embedded in a broad area of low pressure extending across Australia into southwest and southern regions of Queensland.

Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA).

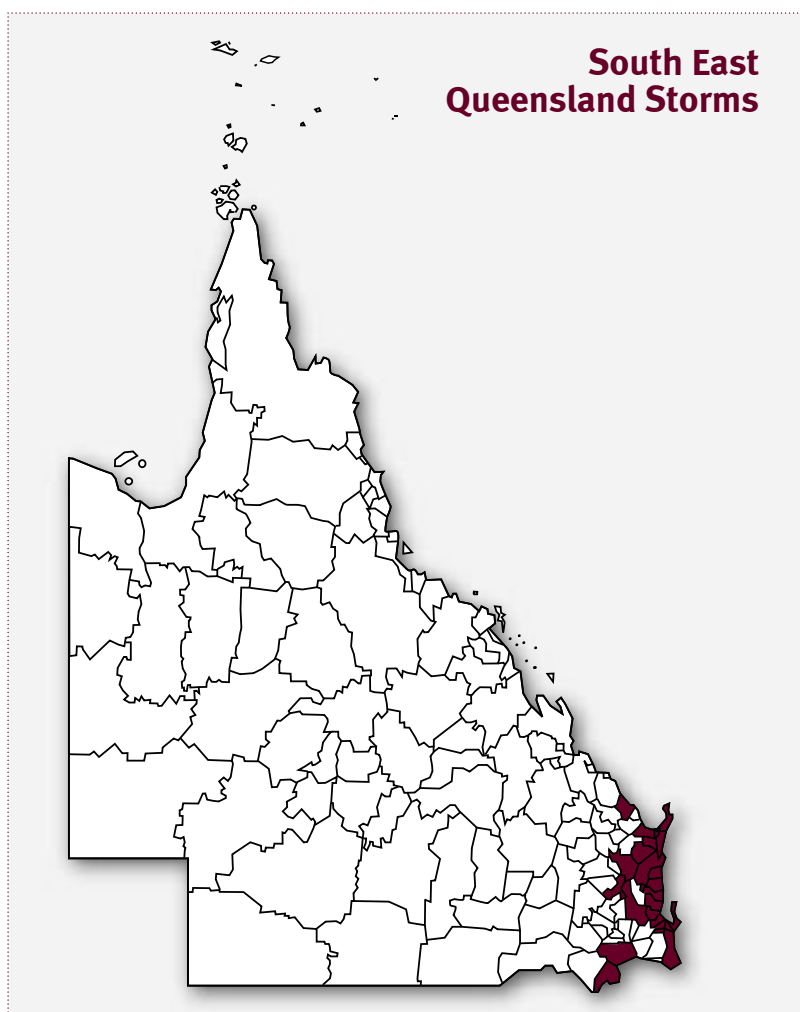
NDRA Relief Measures Activated *

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets
- Concessional loans to primary producers #

Affected Primary Producers to be considered on an Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) basis. Primary Producers should contact their local Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Office.

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures: "Communities within Southeast Queensland affected by storm activity from a persistent trough and low pressure system commencing 24 January 2004 and continuing into late January 2004".

Local Government Areas: Local Government areas include: Brisbane, Burnett, Caboolture, Caloundra, Cooloola, Esk, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Kilkivan, Logan, Maroochy, Maryborough, Miriam Vale (Southern portion), Nanango, Noosa, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Redland, Stanthorpe, Tiaro and Warwick.



**South East Queensland Eastcoast
Low 4-6 March 2004**

Event Timing and Location:

Strong winds and heavy rainfall associated with a complex low-pressure system caused wind damage and flooding across Southeast Queensland Districts from Seventeen Seventy to the New South Wales Border.

Assistance Activated: The Minister for Emergency Services activated the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA).

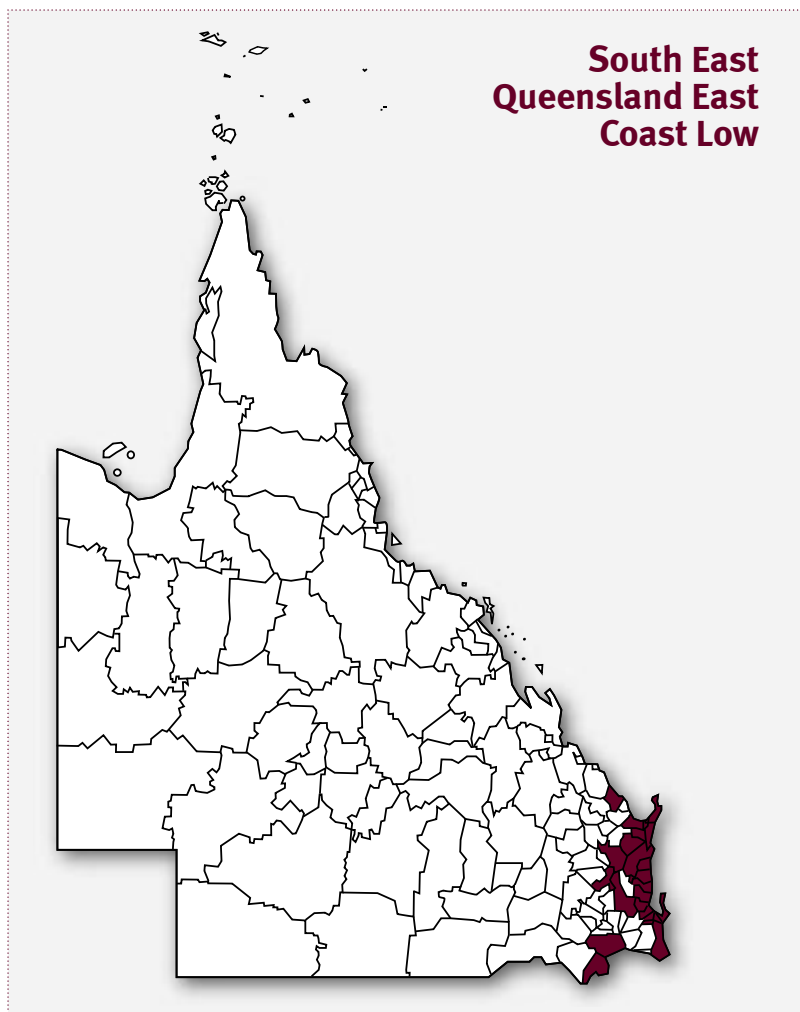
NDRA Relief Measures Activated

- Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme
- Counter-disaster operations
- Restoration of public assets

Area formally defined (by Minister for Emergency Services) for receipt of NDRA Relief Measures - "Communities within Southeast Queensland affected by wind, wave and flood action from an Eastcoast low pressure system between 4 and 6 March 2004".

Local Government Areas: Local

Government areas where damage has been reported include: Beaudesert, Biggenden, Brisbane, Caboolture, Caloundra, Crows Nest, Cooloola, Esk, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Kilcoy, Kingaroy, Logan, Maroochy, Maryborough, Noosa, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Tiaro, Toowoomba, Woocoo.



NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS (NPW) PROGRAM

Department of Emergency Services - Disaster Management Services is the lead agency for Nuclear Powered Warship visits to Queensland ports. During 2003-2004 there was only one visit to Queensland due to United States Navy operational requirements still impacting on the Australian visit program. The USS Helena, a Los Angeles Class fast attack submarine visited Brisbane from 13 to 19 September 2003 inclusive, for crew rest and recreation purposes.

Due to a high operational workload, the Brisbane State Emergency Service (SES) have relinquished the role of the Zone One Duty Officer to the Royal Australian Navy. The SES will continue to support statutory organisations as required. These changes only apply to the Port of Brisbane and a revised Brisbane Port Safety Plan reflecting these changes was issued in June 2004.

The rewriting of the Gladstone Port Safety Plan is also well under way, following consultation with stakeholders.

FUNCTIONAL LEAD AGENCY REPORTS

Allocation of Functional Lead Agency Status

To be effective, the State's disaster management arrangements must be able to access and coordinate functional expertise and resources in support of disaster affected communities. A 'lead agency' responsibility has been assigned for functional plans to specific Government Departments, based on their core business.

The allocation of functional lead agency status to Government Departments is:

Function	Lead Agency
Community Recovery	Department of Communities
Transport and Transport Engineering	Queensland Transport
Health	Queensland Health
Building and Engineering Services	Department of Public Works
Emergency Supply	Department of Public Works
Communications	Department of Public Works
Electricity/Fuel/Gas Supply	Department of Energy
Coordination of Disaster Management System	Department of Emergency Services

Functional Lead Agency Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of lead agencies to ensure that effective functional plans are prepared at State and, where appropriate, regional level. Regional level functional plans should be written to ensure appropriate support is provided to the District Disaster Management Groups within the departmental region.
- It is important to recognise that providers of the functional services comprise not only Government agencies, but also community organisations and commercial interests. In the many disaster situations, most of the available resources required to fulfil a particular function will be in possession of entities other than Government Departments.
- To ensure appropriate input to the planning process, it will normally be necessary for Lead Agencies to establish a State level functional planning committee. The committee should be representative of key organisations in the functional area.
- The process for development of functional plans by lead agencies should include the following:
 - Identification of community and commercial organisations with expertise, resources and a capacity relating to the lead agency's functional responsibility;
 - Meeting with representatives of such

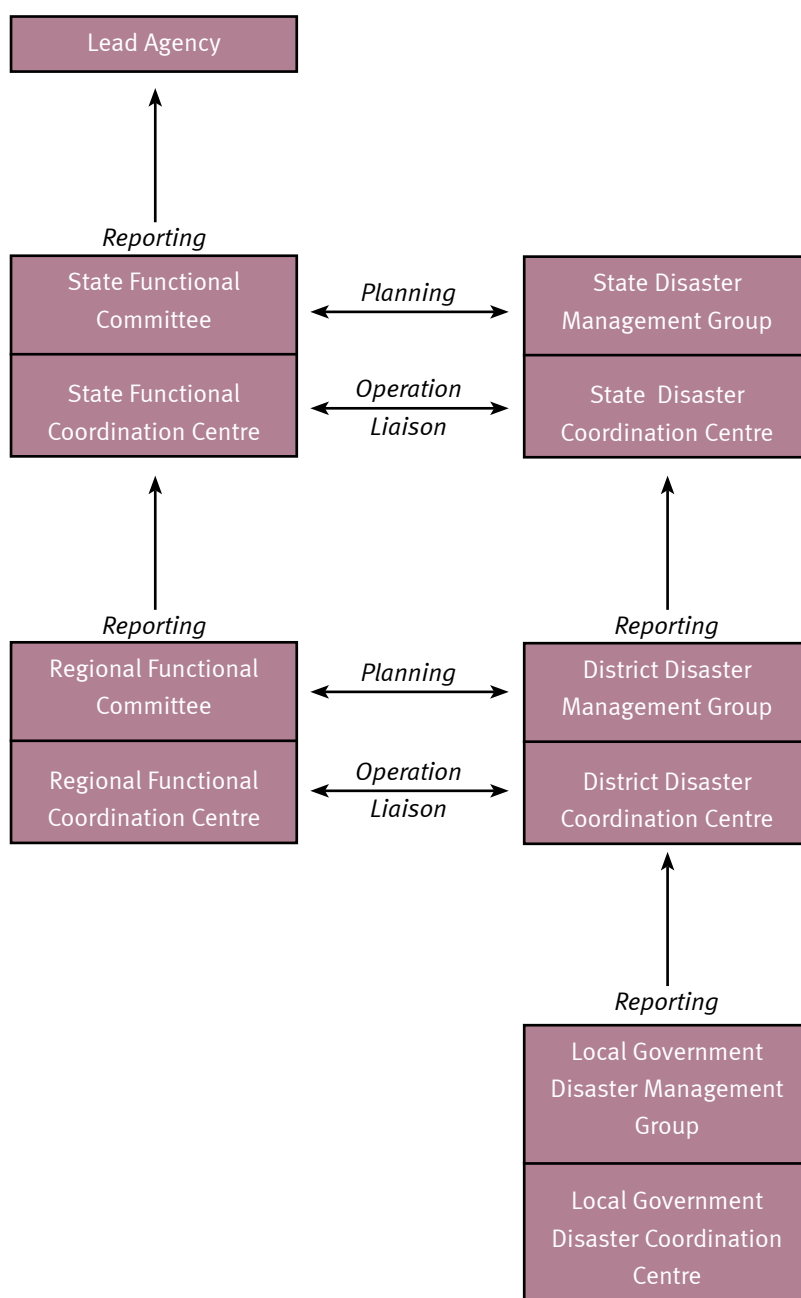
organisations, and gaining commitment from them to participate in the planning process and provide functional support in the event of disaster;

- Liaison with officers of the disaster management system and the other Departmental officers to ensure coordination and congruency of plans and arrangements; and
- Providing leadership in the planning process.
- The regional structure and method of operation of many lead agencies may necessitate the identification of functional arrangements on a regional basis. To develop functional plans in support of disaster management arrangements at a Disaster District level, it may be necessary to constitute regional functional planning committees.
- Functional plans developed at a regional level will normally be supportive of more than one Disaster District.
- Regional managers of lead agencies should ensure appropriate liaison with all DDMG within their regional boundaries. Where Disaster District and lead agency boundaries do not match, negotiations should be undertaken with the regional managers of adjoining regions and appropriate DDMGs to ensure that suitable disaster management arrangements are instituted with regard to the lead agency functional responsibility.

- It will be necessary for a representative of regional functional committees, where these are established, to be on each DDMG covered by the functional plan.

- Functional support arrangements are depicted at Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Functional Support Arrangements



Department of Communities

Function

To coordinate government and community agencies to:

- Reduce disaster related social and family dislocation through coordination of information, financial support and personal support services;
- Reduce emotional and psychological effects on disaster affected people through coordination of counselling and community development services; and
- Assist and support the community through management of its own recovery.

The Department's recovery functions are delivered and enhanced by:

- Coordination of the department's response to disaster situations, and coordination of community recovery agencies;
- Monitoring of statewide preparedness and capacity to deliver community recovery services, and training of departmental staff and community recovery staff, to ensure effective and timely responses;
- Development of policy and procedures for delivery of departmental community recovery services and payment of disaster relief assistance and cross Government responses to disaster events; and
- Development and review of national disaster recovery

policy and practices through meetings with the Community Services Ministers' Advisory Council Recovery subcommittee (State/Territories recovery coordinators) together with the Department of Family and Community Services, and Centrelink.

Year in review

The department's recovery management staff:

- Were alerted to a number of adverse weather conditions throughout the state which were effectively monitored;
- Activated and coordinated recovery services and relief arrangements in response to:
 - The hail storm at the Gold Coast September 2003
 - Storms in western and south eastern Queensland January 2004; and
 - Storms in north Queensland March 2004
- Provided relief assistance of \$210,211.89 to individuals and families with respect to personal hardship, replacement of household goods and repairs to residences (July 2003-June 2004)
- Attended training/professional development sessions, along with staff of community recovery agencies, at Recovery workshops at Townsville and Brisbane sponsored by Emergency Management Australia attended by 57 departmental staff and other community recovery agency staff; and Emergency

Management Australia (Mt Macedon) attended by 16 departmental staff and community recovery agency staff.

Year ahead

Ongoing coordination and development of community recovery services, in collaboration with community and government agencies to achieve:

- Well supported and integrated recovery services, with strong community and government partnerships;
- Trained and prepared departmental and community recovery agency staff; and
- Ongoing policy development to support effective and timely statewide community recovery services.

Queensland Transport

Function

To support a whole of government disaster response framework through our commitment to undertaking transport portfolio roles and responsibilities.

This capability is achieved through constantly upgrading our portfolio planning process and ensuring that our plan is tested regularly.

Year in review

The year 03-04 saw a focus on portfolio planning and relationship building with our stakeholders. Activities included:

- Exercise Fastball – September 03.
- Flooding in western Queensland – January 04.

- Main Roads assistance was requested when roads collapsed north of Cairns after extensive flooding from Cyclone Fritz in February 2004.
- Enquiries for aviation support to assist in the resupply of Bedourie after flooding from Cyclone Fritz – February 04.
- Developing a portfolio cost estimate for a hypothetical emergency animal disease outbreak.
- QR seminar for stakeholders after Waterfall train accident in NSW – June 04.
- Developing a specific response plan and community recovery package for an emergency animal disease outbreak.

A range of functional or desktop exercises and professional development opportunities assisted in raising the awareness and skills of staff throughout the disaster management network.

Year ahead

The transport portfolio will be presenting a paper at the 2nd Annual Emergency Management 2004 conference in September.

All portfolio plans are being rewritten within a risk assessment framework. This activity will be in line with the Guidelines identified with the proclamation of the new Disaster Management Act.

At a state level, we are also supporting other lead agency activities eg Foot and Mouth Disease preparedness planning.

Relationship building with internal and external stakeholders across the portfolio is a major focus in the year ahead. This will enhance both our preparedness and our future response capability.

Queensland Health

Function

The provision of health services that are timely, accessible and cost effective.

Year In review

A review of national arrangements post-Bali saw the replacement of the Australian Disaster Medicine Group by a higher level committee convened by the Deputy Secretary from the Department of Health and Ageing. This group known as the Australian Health Disaster Management and Policy Committee (AHD-MPC) has jurisdictional representatives as well as subject specialists. Initiatives being pursued include a national audit of health infrastructure and a National Burns Plan.

Public Health Services utilised aspects of the Disaster Management programme to monitor Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Avian Influenza.

The exceptional heatwave conditions in February 2004 led to extraordinary pressure being placed on health and ambulance services. Following a debrief a whole-of-Government strategy is under development to be implemented a similar situation.

Department of Health (QH) participated in a project established with QBuild and the Department of Energy to identify health care facilities with emergency generators. This was aimed at ensuring fuel supplies would be available in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Participation in exercises this year included:

- Exercise Fastball – a national counter terrorist exercise with technical input provided by Radiation Health and trial of the Royal Brisbane Hospital's portable decontamination facility.
- Exercise Solomon - sponsored by Queensland Rail - a rail crash scenario in suburban Brisbane.
- Exercise Explorer - a major exercise conducted in the Sydney area over a number of days based around a major building collapse in the Central Business District with a real time simulation site built at the Holsworthy Military Reserve.
- Experience gained from participation in the monthly exercises conducted by the Brisbane Airport Emergency Planning Committee proved beneficial for QH staff deployed to Brisbane Airport during the SARS emergency.

The Emergency Health Services Unit provided information and the provision of emergency medical services to the World Cup Rugby games played in Brisbane and Townsville. Overseas medical staff were given recognition by

designating the games a “special event” within the provisions of the Health Practitioners Special Events Exemption Act.

Mr Trevor Barnes and Ms Therese Lee from the Emergency Health Services Unit were recognised as experts in the area of emergency management by the World Health Organisation.

Training

- Training activities included Department of Health student and faculty members attended the National Disaster Medicine Course at the Australian Emergency Management Institute Victoria
- The Emergency Health Services Unit presented Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) Awareness training at Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone in association with the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Emergency departments at those locations. PPE for CBR incidents is now located at fourteen hospitals throughout Queensland. Work continues on the development of decontamination facilities and hospitals.
- Continued delivery of the Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support Course with courses now conducted interstate. Negotiations are currently underway to conduct courses in New Zealand.

Department of Public Works

Function

The communications functional role has been transferred to the Department of Public Works. Previously the role was undertaken by the former Department of Innovation and Information Economy.

In addition to the communications function, the Department of Public Works continues the important functional support roles of Building and Engineering Services, and Emergency Supply.

As a result of the introduction of the new Disaster Management Act 2003, the Department of Public Works has commenced a complete review of the agency’s current Disaster Management Functional Support Plan.

Year in review

During 2003-04, the Department of Public Works responded to several natural disaster events. In the majority of events, the response was limited to effecting repairs to damaged State Government built infrastructure. However, following the Gold Coast storms in October 2003 and the Brisbane storms during January 2004, the Department through QBuild, provided in excess of 1700 work hours through a range of disaster response activities to assist the community.

The cost of repairs for damage to State Government built infrastructure from natural disaster events during 2003-04 was in excess of \$4M. Approximately 20% of the total cost was for repairs to Department of Housing properties. The Department of Education was also severely impacted with damages of approximately \$2.5M.

In a counter terrorism context, the Department of Public Works has assisted a number of State Government agencies in planning for the recovery of critical services and built infrastructure following a disruption to their business.

The State Government Protective Security Service, a division of the Department of Public Works, has also been working with agencies in reviewing building emergency management and security planning arrangements. A particular element of the comprehensive reviews has been directed at any escalation of the current medium level of threat.

As an adjunct to the Government Agency Preparedness project, the Department of Public Works has consulted with the Security Planning Coordination Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to the development of a whole-of-Government mail screening proposal. The proposal generally entails the electronic screening and inspection of all postal mail delivered to State Government departments and agencies located

within the Brisbane CBD, as well as the Department of Emergency Services located at Kedron.

The Department of Public Works participated on a number of cross-agency task groups, particularly in relation to preparedness for an outbreak of a plant or animal disease. The Department's work has been aligned to the identification of solutions to problems that have been identified by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, as well as other response agencies.

The Department of Public Works, through QBuild, continues to work with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries by minimising the threat of transfer of contaminated soils and other materials in the Red Fire Ant infested environs of Brisbane.

All QBuild field operatives updated fire ant identification and movement controls through QBuild's Environmental Management System training held during the period September to December 2003.

During 2003-04, in excess of 1500 work hours were invested in disaster management training throughout the Department of Public Works.

On 10 and 11 September 2003, an annual Disaster Management Forum was held in Brisbane. Over 40 QBuild officers who undertake roles on their respective

Disaster District Coordination Groups attended the Forum. Presentations were given on a diverse range of subject matters including the Canberra bushfires, risk management perspectives of water and power distribution networks, an update on foot and mouth disease preparedness and Queensland counter terrorism measures.

A number of QBuild personnel were also involved in the national training exercise "Fastball". This training exercise was an investigation and consequence management exercise directed at Queensland's counter terrorism preparedness.

Staff throughout QBuild's regional office network took part in a series of disaster management training initiatives. This included special interactive training exercises which were held in Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Maryborough and the Gold Coast. All remaining QBuild regional offices will take part in the training exercise during 2004-05.

The Department of Public Works has worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to develop contingency arrangements for the operation of critical services following a widespread power outage.

The arrangements have resulted in the provision of emergency fuel supply arrangements at the Department of Public Works

(QFleet) garages located at South Brisbane and Zillmere. Both garages now have emergency power capability to continue dispensing fuel (unleaded and diesel) to authorised vehicles during a power blackout.

The Department of Public Works has also developed a register of all State Government emergency power generation equipment, the respective fuel consumption rates and fuel storage capability. The register will ultimately facilitate the development of prioritised fuel re-supply arrangements to all State Government built infrastructure throughout impacted regions.

Year ahead

In 2004-05, the Department of Public Works proposes to continue developing key staff through new and progressive disaster management training initiatives. The Department is also proposing to continue with the ongoing development of initiatives commenced during 2003-04 with an emphasis on reinforcing preparedness through planning.

The Department of Public Works has requested funding assistance through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program for the further development and assessment of tropical cyclone shelter arrangements in northern coastal and island communities. Additional funding has been approved to review fire resistant building materials for use in bushfire areas.

The Department of Public Works, through QBuild, proposes to investigate the feasibility of developing a range of simply illustrated brochures which would assist homeowners to more expertly manage the recovery of their property following an impact from a natural disaster.

Department of Energy

Function

The Department of Energy (DE) has responsibility for emergency sector response plans for electricity, liquid fuels and gas to minimise risk to critical energy infrastructure and risk of serious supply disruptions for electricity, liquid fuels and gas, and the consequent effects on the community.

For liquid fuels, the Department of Energy represents the State Government as a member of the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC). Membership of NOSEC includes from Departments with responsibilities for liquid fuel matters (usually departments with responsibility for energy), and industry.

For electricity, the Department of Energy works closely with the operator of Queensland's electricity transmission system, Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink), Queensland's two electricity distributors, ENERGEX and Ergon Energy, the National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) which has primary

responsibility for management of the National Electricity Market (NEM), and the Department of Emergency Services.

For gas, the provisions for the security of supply for gas have recently been strengthened by the commencement of the Gas Supply Act 2003 on 1 July 2003.

Year in review

Electricity: The Department of Energy has in place a comprehensive Statewide plan, with supporting procedures, to manage any incidents of electricity supply shortfall or other emergencies. The plan has been developed in conjunction with Powerlink, ENERGEX, Ergon Energy, NEMMCO and the Department of Emergency Services.

A simulated multi-jurisdictional electricity supply disruption was carried out in late 2003, which proved Queensland's existing procedures are adequate and the various parties involved are well versed in their roles and responsibilities under the procedure.

Liquid Fuels: The Department of Energy has worked closely with NOSEC on the following key tasks:

- Preparation of a National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan - State and Territory representatives of NOSEC have worked with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR) to develop this National

Response Plan which details how Commonwealth powers are delegated, communication protocols and other details of declaring an emergency and implementing fuel rationing;

- Review of an emergency fuel shortage simulation, held 18 June 2003. DE was involved in discussions regarding the processes to be utilised in the implementation of the National Response Plan.

The Department of Energy has also developed a very detailed Queensland Liquid Fuel Emergency Plan to address such contingencies. It has been developed in close consultation with the Commonwealth, industry and government stakeholder agencies, particularly the downstream petroleum industry and closely follows the National Response Plan.

Gas: The Queensland Government has powers under the Gas Supply Act 2003 to deal with insufficiency of supply emergency situations. The Department of Energy has begun developing a draft emergency response plan for serious gas supply disruptions. A meeting has been held with industry representatives to discuss the way ahead to further develop this draft plan.

Year ahead

Electricity: On going liaison with NEMMCO, Powerlink, ENERGEX and Ergon Energy to ensure readiness for supply emergencies including the emergency supply of power if there is a major long term power outage within a region of Queensland. NEMMCO is planning to conduct a multi-jurisdictional supply emergency simulation exercise in late October 2004.

Liquid Fuels: A review of the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 and the National Response Plan is being undertaken by a consultant commissioned by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. This review will aim to recommend changes to the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 and National Response Plan to enable streamlining of the procedures.

Gas: The Energy Regulation, Infrastructure and Consumer Services Division will further discuss the existing Gas Emergency Plan with industry and aim to develop an agreed process for load shedding in the event of serious supply disruption. A model of the gas supply demand will also be developed to allow testing for various emergency scenarios affecting supply and to allow further development of the Gas Emergency Plan.

Department of Emergency Services

The Department of Emergency Services Lead Agency Report is incorporated in Section 5: Operational Summary.

THREAT SPECIFIC AGENCY REPORTS

General

There are three types of threat specific arrangements in Queensland. These are:

- **Specific threats where Government Departments and agencies have a legislated lead agency role.** These lead agencies are allocated responsibility to prepare for and to combat the specific threat based on their core business. For example, the threat specific lead agency responsible for bushfire is Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Emergency Services. The disaster management system in Queensland coordinates resources in support of lead agency combat operations.

- **Specific threats that are addressed by Advisory Coordinating Committees.**

These threats (cyclones, floods and earthquakes) exceed the disaster management capability of any one Government department or agency to address comprehensively.

Advisory Coordinating Committees are peak level bodies that provide information and advice to the SDMG on prevention and preparedness issues. Operational response to, and recovery from, these specific threats is undertaken by the State's disaster management system; and

- **Specific threats that are the responsibility of the SDMG.**

These threats are subject to Threat Specific Special Plans authorised by the SDMG and operationally managed by the State's disaster management system.

Allocation of Lead Agency Status

The allocation of threat-specific Lead Agency status to Government Departments is as follows:

Lead Agency	Threat
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Emergency Services	Bushfire
Queensland Transport (Maritime Safety Queensland)	Oil Spill at Sea
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Emergency Animal/Plant Disease
Department of Energy	Electricity/Fuel/Gas Supply
Queensland Health	Human Epidemic

Threat Specific Lead Agency Responsibility

- Lead agencies are responsible for combating specific threats as listed above and for ensuring that effective threat specific plans are prepared and that resources are identified to combat the hazard.
- In some situations, many of the available resources required to counter a particular threat will be in possession of entities other than lead agencies. This may mean that plans will need to involve other Government Departments and agencies and private or volunteer organisations.
- To ensure appropriate input to the planning process, it will normally be necessary to establish a State level threat specific planning committee. The committee should be representative of key organisations involved in that specific threat area.
- The process of development of threat specific plans by lead agencies should include the following:
 - Identification of community and commercial organisations with expertise, resources and a capacity relating to the lead agency's threat specific responsibility;
 - Meeting with representatives of such organisations, and gaining commitment from them to participate in the planning process and provide support in the event of disaster;
 - Liaison with officers of the disaster management system and other Departmental officers (including CDRS) to ensure coordination and congruency of plans and arrangements; and
 - Provision of leadership in the planning process.
- The regional structure and method of operation of many lead agencies may necessitate the identification of threat specific arrangements on a regional basis and to constitute regional threat specific planning committees.
- Threat specific plans developed at a regional level will normally involve more than one Disaster District.
- Regional managers of lead agencies should ensure appropriate liaison with all DDMG which lie within their regional boundaries. Where Disaster District and lead agency boundaries do not match, negotiations should be undertaken with the regional managers of adjoining regions and appropriate DDMG to ensure that suitable disaster management arrangements are instituted with regard to the lead agency threat specific responsibilities.
- It will be necessary for a representative of regional threat specific committees, where these are established, to be on each DDMG covered by the threat specific plan.
- Threat specific support arrangements are illustrated in Figure 3.

Department of Energy

No energy supply emergency events occurred which required intervention by the Department. All were dealt with by the energy retailers and other agencies.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Function

DPI&F is the lead agency within the Queensland Disaster Management System for emergency response to animal, plant and aquatic animal emergency pests and diseases affecting commercial primary production. In this role it is supported by the Queensland Veterinary Emergency Plan (QLDVETPLAN), a sub plan of the State Disaster Plan.

Year In review

During the year DPI&F was proactively involved in building its internal capacity to manage and respond to emergency situations including:

- Aligning the Emergency Response Management Strategy to the new Disaster Management Act;
- Participating in the Whole of Government, Government Agency Preparedness program and Exercise Fastball including the Multi Agency Threat Assessment Team evaluations.

DPI&F conducted a number of responses during the year. The following responses were conducted under national cost sharing arrangements:

- Black Sigatoka (bananas) – successful completion of response, including proof of freedom surveillance, at the end of 2003.
- Citrus Canker (citrus species and rutaceae), initiation of response late June 2004.
- Red Imported Fire Ant response continues – successful achievement of milestones to date.

A number of responses were conducted within the resources of DPI&F including:

- Completion of Wheat Streak Mosaic virus response;
- A number of ant responses for crazy ants and ginger ants.
- High Plains Virus of cereal crops;
- Asian Honey Bee;
- Giant African Snail;
- Botulism in cattle; and
- A virus condition of prawns.

The Citrus Canker response has involved support from the Queensland Disaster Management System (including activating extraordinary meetings to brief the State Disaster Management Group). This support has been greatly appreciated by DPI&F.

Year ahead

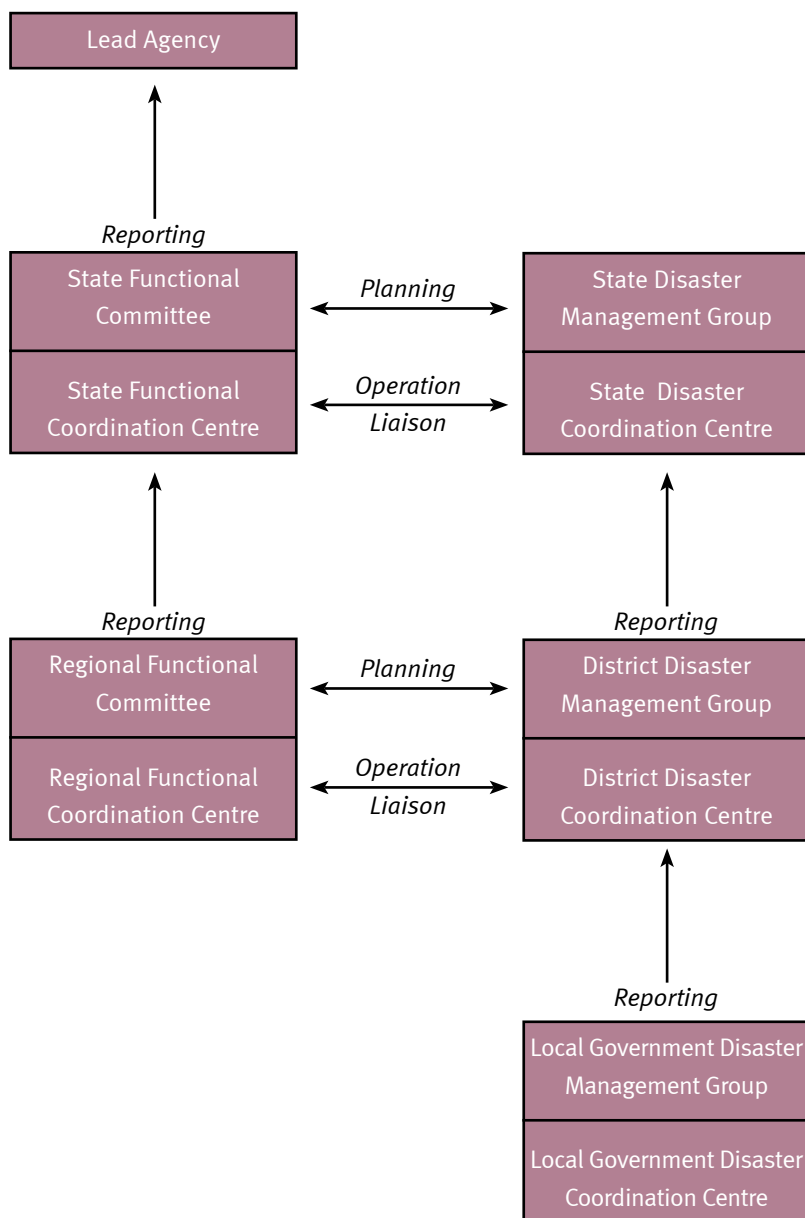
Complete an internal review of the Citrus Canker response, apply lessons learned to the internal response capability and participate in the application of relevant lessons to the whole of government response support capability.

Revise QLDVETPLAN and expand its coverage to include plant and aquatic animal emergencies.

Continue prevention and preparedness activities, including ongoing participation in the Queensland Disaster Management System, and preparedness activities on Avian Influenza.

Continue capacity building and regional roll out of the Government Agency Preparedness planning and training.

Figure 3 - Threat Specific Support Arrangements



Queensland Transport – Maritime Safety Queensland

Function

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has an obligation under the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 (TOMPA) to 'protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising deliberate and negligent discharges of pollutants from ships into coastal waters'.

Similarly the Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002 places an obligation on MSQ to 'develop strategies to prevent the deliberate, negligent or accidental discharge of ship-sourced pollutants into coastal waters and to deal with discharges whenever they occur'.

Year in review

During the year, MSQ met its obligations under both Acts by developing and implementing marine pollution prevention and response programs and responding appropriately to all reported incidents.

Key elements of MSQ's marine pollution prevention and response programs for 2003-2004 included analysis of the results of an assessment of the risk of oil spills in all Queensland ports and securing endorsement of Oil Pollution First-Strike Response Deeds between MSQ and Queensland port authorities for 16 of the state's 19 trading, non-trading and community ports.

MSQ was also active in developing new oil spill contingency plans and in developing and delivering competency based training for operational first-strike oil spill response personnel throughout Queensland.

In the twelve months to 30 June 2004, MSQ received reports of 82 pollution incidents. Most reported incidents occurred within port limits (67%) or in adjacent coastal waters (32%). Only one incident was reported outside of Queensland coastal waters but within MSQ's area of operations as Combat Agency under the National Plan.

The most significant incident to occur during the year involved the 42 metre hopper dredge Karma which ran aground approximately 10 kilometres south of Agnes Waters on 14 November 2003. The Karma was carrying over 6000 litres of pollutants and presented a significant threat to the local marine environment. Fortunately the threat was averted when an oil spill response team from MSQ's Gladstone region removed all pollutants from the ship. The ship itself was eventually removed from the beach by salvage contractors on 24 December 2004.

Year ahead

During the 2004-2005 financial year MSQ will be working towards full implementation of the Oil Pollution First-Strike Response Deeds and ongoing development of new oil spill contingency plans for ports. MSQ will also be involved in the preparation and coordination of local and regional desk-top and field exercises to test and audit oil spill response capacity in all ports and will continue to provide competency based training for all operational personnel.

In addition, MSQ will continue its fundamental oil spill preparedness and response activities and management of the National Plan in Queensland.

Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

Function

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Department of Emergency Services provides assistance to communities in rural fire management through a range of strategies including promotion of hazard reduction and prescribed burning, fire awareness and suppression training and fire supervision in rural areas.

QFRS provides support to rural communities to better manage the threat of wildfire by providing advice on fire management and delivering world best practice fire prevention and fighting services.

Year in review

- Assisted 84 Local Authorities to review planning schemes.
- Provided Local Authorities with Bush Fire Risk Maps to assist in their planning process.
- Provided Risk Profiles for brigades to allow equitable and appropriate distribution of resources.

- Developed a web mapping application for operational and administrative use of staff and volunteers.
- Produced iZone mapping for South-east Queensland.
- Assisted with the development and delivery of the Bushfire Prepared Communities Project.
- Completed the third year of the Rural training Development Initiative.
- Advance awareness regarding fire safety and continue to promote a fire safe community through the responsible use of fire for land management, agricultural purposes and hazard reduction.
- Work to ensure appropriate resourcing of brigades commensurate with the risk profile of each local community.
- Develop a web mapping application for service delivery planning

Year ahead

- Continue to foster and maintain strong partnerships with community and empower volunteers to achieve pro-active rural fire management.
- Continue replacement of older appliances using funding from the Veteran Replacement program.
- Continue to deliver nationally recognized resources and competency based training to QFRS staff and volunteers as part of the Rural Training Development initiative.
- Production of an atlas for the operational and administrative support of QFRS staff and volunteers
- Enhancement of the QFRS website to provide public access to information on Fire Wardens, Bushfire risk and bushfire mapping.
- Complete iZone mapping of the state.

Operational summary

The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) was activated outside normal business hours on six occasions to support district operations.

The 2003-2004 cyclone season saw two tropical cyclones and two tropical lows impact the Queensland coast, causing widespread flooding but little serious structural damage. Seven tonnes of food and medical supplies were airlifted to communities isolated by floodwaters.

STATE DISASTER COORDINATION CENTRE

32

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was involved in the following operations during this period:

Earthquake – 12 August 2003

An earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale occurred at 1705 hours just off the North Queensland Coast, southeast of Ingham. Many residents between Townsville and Ingham reported feeling the earthquake but there were no reports of any damage.

Storm Damage – Southeast Queensland 3 October 2003

A line of thunderstorms moved east from the Granite Belt during the afternoon. Damaging wind gusts and heavy rain caused extensive tree damage and brought down power lines effecting approximately 36,000 homes mainly in the Gold Coast and Hinterland areas. Falling trees and branches damaged approximately 30 homes.

Spacecraft Re-entry – 15 to 16 October 2003

A watching brief was maintained following advice that China would launch its first manned space mission followed by 14 orbits in mid-October. The “Shenzhou V” space capsule landed safely in north China’s Inner Mongolia on 16 October.

World Rugby Cup and Lexmark Indy 300 Race – 11 October to 9 November 2003

Operational plans were written for both these mass-gathering events. Twelve World Rugby Cup matches were played in Queensland at venues in Brisbane and Townsville. The Indy car race was conducted 23-27 October and attracted over 300,000 people to Surfers Paradise.

Storm Damage – Southeast Queensland 24 to 26 October 2003

Thunderstorms producing large hail and strong winds moved across southeast Queensland damaging over 600 homes and causing widespread power outages. The Minister for Emergency Services activated Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements as a result of damage to crops and government infrastructure exceeding \$2million. The Insurance Disaster Response Organisation estimated damage to private houses and businesses in excess of \$20million.

Storm Damage – Gold Coast 8 November 2003

Strong wind squalls and heavy rain damaged over 50 houses, mainly in the Currumbin Valley area. Thirty-six of these homes had previously been damaged by storms two weeks earlier.

Schoolies Week – 21 to 30 November 2003

The Gold Coast Schoolies week attracted over 50,000 people as Year 12 school leavers in three States finished their terms at the same time and made the Gold Coast their focus point. Additional staff were rostered to support Police and District operational plans.

Storm Damage – Sunshine Coast 23 November 2003

Thunderstorms impacted the Sunshine Coast area during the afternoon, causing damage to the Caboolture Caravan Park and uprooting a number of trees.

Flooding – Western and Southern Downs 5 and 6 December 2003

Storms and heavy rainfall over the Western and Southern Downs area caused moderate flooding in the Weir, Condamine and O'Connor river systems, which damaged adjacent road networks. Crop damage occurred in the Burnett Shire. The Minister for Emergency Services activated Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements as a result of widespread road damage.

Storm Damage – Miriam Vale 5 and 6 December 2003

Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain and damaging wind gusts, unroofed several houses and caused crop damage in the area. Falling trees and debris blocked numerous minor roads.

Storm Damage – Gladstone 9 December 2003

Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, strong winds and hail struck the Gladstone area in the late afternoon and early evening of 9 December. A shopping centre sustained significant damage as well as government infrastructure. The State Emergency Service attended to over 120 requests for assistance. Private asset damage was estimated at \$2 million.

Flooding – Peak Downs – December 2003

On the 11 and 12 December, heavy rainfall caused flash flooding across Peak Downs Shire. As a result of significant damage to road and rail networks, the Minister for Emergency Services activated Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.

South East Queensland Storms – 9 January to 2 February 2004

A line of severe thunderstorms occurred in South East Queensland, and ran concurrently with the West and South East Queensland Floods operation. The severe storms affected the Burnett, Metropolitan, South East and North Coast Districts, with the worst activity occurring over the Australia Day long weekend. Resulting events from the storms included the management of fallen trees, structural damage, flash flooding, and debris removal. On 30 January 2004, the Bureau of Meteorology initiated the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) for a line of severe thunderstorms that impacted Brisbane and southeast Queensland.

West and South East Queensland Floods - 15 January to 25 February 2004

Widespread heavy rain resulted in moderate and major flooding in the Balonne, Weir, Bulloo, Thompson, Barcoo, Nicholson, Gregory and Leichhardt Rivers affecting the Central West, South West and Darling Downs Districts. Thirty houses were inundated in Mount Isa and localised flooding occurred throughout the town. The flooding resulted in road and rail cuts that isolated a number of townships. Welfare and medical support was provided in some South West districts, as well as assisting the transfer of persons who became isolated and/or stranded due to flood waters.

Storm Damage – 4 February 2004

Minor to moderate storm damage occurred to homes in Brisbane, Bundaberg and the Gympie area. Localised flooding and heavy rain closed a number of roads. Far North Queensland Flooding – 5 February to 9 February 2004
An active monsoon trough remained in place over Far North Queensland causing further heavy showers and storms, resulting in most closing in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York areas. Minor flooding also occurred to coastal areas from Bundaberg to Cairns.

Tropical Cyclone Fritz – 10 to 13 February 2004

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Fritz Category One, formed in the early evening of Tuesday 10 February and crossed the eastern Cape York coastline in the vicinity of Princess Charlotte Bay (350 kilometres north of Cairns) the following day. It degenerated to a Tropical Low as it continued moving overland in a westerly direction. Upon reaching the warm waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria, it intensified to a Category Two Tropical Cyclone. Storm Tide Advisers from the Environmental Protection Agency provided advice on possible impacts. TC Fritz crossed the Queensland coast a final time near the Northern Territory border on 13 March. TC Fritz resulted in power outages, fallen trees, water shortages and minor flooding.

Severe Storms – Eastern Darling Downs 16 February 2004

Severe storms over the eastern Darling Downs damaged roofing on four houses and one pub in Withcott (west of Gatton), several trees were also brought down by strong winds. Hail up to three centimetres was reported in the area.

Flooding – Far North Queensland 17 February 2004

As a result of further heavy monsoon rain widespread localised flooding occurred. The Wujal Wujal community north of Cairns suffered a loss of their water pump, which was recently repaired following similar damage from Tropical Cyclone Fritz. A house on Yam Island (Torres Strait) was in danger of slipping into the sea as a result of heavy rain combined with rough weather and high tides.

Storm damage in Cunnamulla 18 February 2004

Storms impacted the Cunnamulla area causing roof damage to approximately 16 buildings in the town.

Tropical Low – South East Queensland 4 to 6 March 2004

A Tropical Low developed about 500 kilometres east of Mackay and moved southwest towards the Queensland coast. The low was expected to cross the coast in the vicinity of Hervey Bay about the same time that a high tide was expected. Due to the severe weather conditions, the Bureau of Meteorology requested the media use the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) to alert the affected communities. The low crossed the coast during the early evening of Friday 5 March in the Wide Bay area without any significant impact to the area. Storm Tide Advisers from the Environmental Protection Agency were situated at the State Disaster Coordination Centre

during the activation. As the low moved inland very heavy rainfalls caused flash flooding and a small road bridge was washed away in Ipswich.

Storm Damage – Southeast Queensland 18 March 2004

Severe storms impacted mainly the coastal areas of southeast Queensland, damaging eight houses. The northern area of New South Wales (NSW) was more severely impacted and 25 Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers were deployed to assist NSW SES.

Tropical Cyclone Grace – North Queensland Coast 18 to 22 March 2004

Tropical Cyclone Grace Category One, formed in the Coral Sea approximately 110 kilometres northeast of Cooktown. Storm Tide Advisers from the Environmental Protection Agency were situated at the State Disaster Coordination Centre during the activation. Storm Tide Advisers from the Environmental Protection Agency provided advice on possible impacts. Heavy rain caused localised flooding, road closures and several landslips between Cooktown and Mackay as it moved slowly southeast before moving away from the coast.

Storm Damage – Southeast Queensland 22 March 2004

Severe storms impacted a widespread area of southeast Queensland. Several dozen buildings were damaged at Esk, Rathdowney, Rosemount, Curramundi and Forest Glen. Numerous trees and powerlines were brought down resulting in power loss to over 4,000 residents.

Storm Damage – Southeast Queensland 23 to 25 February 2004

The most intense storm activity was in the Upper Coomera and Oxenford areas to the south of Brisbane, resulting in damage to over two dozen houses, some with structural damage. Flash flooding occurred in the Beenleigh and Logan areas, stranding several vehicles. Major power outages were reported across the Nanango and Kingaroy Shires.

Flooding – Far North Queensland 26 to 28 April 2004

Heavy rain cut rail and road links in the Tully area (south of Cairns). Several people were evacuated and local resupply operations were conducted to stranded residents.

Citrus Canker Outbreak – 29 June (still ongoing)

Following the outbreak of the bacterial Citrus Canker disease on a property at Emerald. The Queensland Disaster Management System supported the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries in their operations to contain and eradicate the disease.

Avian Influenza and SARS

The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) has been conducting a watching brief on the status of Avian Influenza and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) since 29 January 2004.

Summary of Resupply Operations

As a result of extensive flooding in the Gulf and Channel Country during January, widespread road closures occurred resulting in many communities becoming isolated. Similar conditions occurred impacted the Gulf area again in February. This resulted in requests for the resupply of almost seven tonnes of essential foods and medical supplies, to the following communities by charter aircraft:

Date	Destination	Cargo	Method	Kilograms
16 Jan	Mttaburra	Foodstuffs	Fixed wing	380
16 Jan	Stranded motorists near Mount Isa	Foodstuffs	Rotary wing	400
17 Jan	Jundah	Foodstuffs	Fixed wing	560
19 Jan	Burketown	Foodstuffs	Fixed Wing	959
22 Jan	Diamantina Lakes National Park	Foodstuffs	Fixed wing	66
9 Feb	Bedourie	Medical Supply	Fixed Wing	35
11 Feb	Burketown	Foodstuffs	Fixed wing	1,950
12 Feb	Properties around Burketown	Food and Medical	Rotary Wing	232
26 Feb	Burketown	Foodstuffs Mail	Fixed Wing	2,095 60
				Total: 6,737

Bureau of Meteorology

The Department of Emergency Services has a very close relationship with the Bureau of Meteorology as Queensland has a high frequency of severe

natural phenomena affecting communities throughout the State. The State Disaster Coordination Centre has access to 20 Bureau of Meteorology weather radar sites around the State.

During the period July to December 2003, the following Warnings were received from the Bureau, (totalling 1,053):

Date(s)	Warning	No.	Area/Districts
4-5 August	Fire Weather	4	Channel Country and Warrego Districts
23 August	Fire Weather	2	Northwest, Central, Warrego, Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders Districts
9-14 September	Fire Weather	23	Southeast Coast, Darling Downs, Granite Belt, Wide Bay, Warrego and Maranoa Districts
16 September	Fire Weather	2	Southeast Coast, Darling Downs and Granite Belt Districts
22-27 September	Fire Weather	8	Channel Country, Warrego, Maranoa and Western Darling Downs Districts
26 September	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Southeast Coast District
1 October	Fire Weather	2	Central West and Northern Warrego Districts
2 October	Severe Thunderstorm	8	Darling Downs, Southeast Coast and Wide Bay
3 October	Fire Weather	2	Capricornia District
3 October	Severe Thunderstorm	2	Southeast Coast District
10 October	Severe Thunderstorm	5	Southeast Coast District
11 October	Fire Weather	4	Gulf Country West of Normanton
16 October	Severe Weather	3	Central West and Northern Warrego Districts
20 October	Severe Thunderstorm	7	Southeast Coast and Wide Bay/Burnett Districts
24 October	Severe Thunderstorm	13	Southeast Coast, Wide Bay, Capricornia Districts
25 October	Severe Thunderstorm	14	Southeast Coast, Wide Bay, & D/Downs Districts
25-28 October	Fire Weather	13	Northwest, Channel Country, Maranoa and Warrego Districts
26 October	Severe Thunderstorm	14	Southeast Coast, Darling Downs, Wide Bay and Capricornia Districts
28 October	Severe Thunderstorm	10	Southeast Coast, Wide Bay, Capricornia and Darling Downs Districts
31 October	Fire Weather	6	Southeast Coast, Wide Bay, and Darling Downs
31 October	Severe Thunderstorm	8	Southeast Coast, Wide Bay, Capricornia Districts
1 November	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Central Highlands and Southeast Coast Districts
3 November	Fire Weather	2	Herbert and Lower Burdekin Districts
19-20 November	Fire Weather	5	Warrego and Maranoa Districts
24-25 November	Fire Weather	5	Northwest and Gulf Country Districts
23 November	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Wide Bay and Burnett District
24 November	Severe Thunderstorm	11	Southeast Coast District
24-25 November	Fire Weather	5	Northwest and Gulf Country Districts

5 December	Severe Thunderstorm	3	Capricornia District
5 December	Severe Thunderstorm	2	Southeast Coast District
6 December	Severe Thunderstorm	6	Wide Bay/Burnett and Capricornia Districts
6 December	Gale	2	North Eastern Area
6-15 December	Flood	11	Weir River
8 December	Severe Thunderstorm	3	Capricornia District
9 December	Severe Thunderstorm	5	Wide Bay/Burnett and Capricornia Districts
11 December	Severe Weather	3	Near North and East of Emerald
14 December	Severe Thunderstorm	3	Southeast Coast District
24 December	Severe Thunderstorm	3	Darling Downs District
25 December	Severe Thunderstorm	3	Warrego, Maranoa, and Darling Downs Districts
25 December	Severe Thunderstorm	15	Southeast Coast and Burnett Districts
25-26 December	Fire Weather	6	Warrego and Maranoa Districts
26 December	Severe Thunderstorm	7	Southeast Coast and Burnett Districts
30-31 December	Gale	13	North Eastern Area
1-2 January	Gale	10	Eastern Area
8 January	Severe Thunderstorm	2	Southeast Coast District
13 January	Gale	2	Eastern Gulf of Carpentaria
13-17 January	Severe Weather	25	North West, Darling Downs and Central Coast
13 Jan to 18 Feb	Flood	37	Thomson and Barcoo Rivers and Cooper Creek
14 January	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Southeast Coast District
14-21 January	Flood	9	Albert, Nicholson, Gregory, Leichhardt and Flinders Rivers
14 Jan to 1 Feb	Flood	21	Bulloo River
14 Jan to 1 Feb	Flood	21	Condamine, Balonne and Maranoa Rivers
14-27 January	Flood	14	MacIntyre and Weir Rivers
15-30 January	Flood	16	Warrego River
16 Jan to 22 Feb	Flood	36	Diamantina River
16-28 January	Flood	13	Moonie River
16 Jan to 2 Feb	Flood	18	Paroo River
17-23 January	Flood	8	Comet, Mackenzie and Dawson Rivers
17-20 January	Gale	25	Eastern Area
18 January	Severe Weather	2	Herbert Burdekin District
18 Jan to 3 March	Flood	48	Georgina River and Eyre Creek
24-25 January	Severe Thunderstorm	21	Southeast District
25 January	Severe Weather	1	Darling Downs and Granite Belt District
25-26 January	Severe Thunderstorm	11	Capricorn, Wide Bay and Burnett Districts
26 January	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Southeast District

27 January	Severe Thunderstorm	8	Capricornia and Southeast Districts
28 January	Severe Thunderstorm	12	Southeast, Wide Bay and Burnett Districts
29 January	Severe Weather	3	Darling Downs and Granite Belt District
29 January	Severe Thunderstorm	9	Southeast, Wide Bay and Burnett Districts
30 January	Severe Thunderstorm	12	Southeast, Wide Bay and Burnett Districts
31 January	Severe Thunderstorm	6	Capricorn, Wide Bay and Burnett Districts
1-3 February	Gale	7	North Eastern Area
2-3 February	Gale	3	Yeppoon to Coolangatta
3 February	Flood	5	Cherwell and Burrum Rivers
3-4 February	Flood	12	Coastal rivers between Gladstone and the Gold Coast
5 February	Flood	3	Johnstone River
5-8 February	Flood	7	Tully River
6-7 February	Flood	3	Barron River
8-10 February	Gale	6	North Eastern Area
10-11 February	Gale	10	Torres Strait to Bowen
10-13 February	Tropical Cyclone	24	Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria
11 February	Gale	4	Gulf of Carpentaria
11-13 February	Flood	8	Coastal rivers between Innisfail and Townsville
11-15 February	Flood	9	Tully River
11-14 February	Flood	10	Herbert River
12 February	Storm Tide	5	Southern Gulf of Carpentaria
12 February	Severe Weather	2	South Johnstone/Innisfail
12-13 February	Flood	2	Coastal rivers between Townsville and Mackay
13 February	Severe Thunderstorm	9	Darling Downs and Southeast Coast Districts
16 February	Severe Thunderstorm	7	Southeast Coast and Wide Bay/Burnett Districts
22 February	Severe Thunderstorm	9	Southeast Coast and Wide Bay/Burnett Districts
23 February	Severe Thunderstorm	7	Southeast Coast District
23 February	Severe Thunderstorm	7	Wide Bay and Burnett District
24 February	Severe Weather	2	Beenleigh to Southport
2-5 March	Gale	18	North Eastern Area
3-5 March	Gale	12	Cooktown to Coolangatta
4 March	Storm Tide	2	Maryborough coastal area
4-6 March	Severe Weather	22	Queensland coastal areas south of Gladstone
5 March	Storm Tide	1	Maryborough coastal area
15-23 March	Flood	14	Tully and Murray Rivers
18 March	Severe Thunderstorm	4	Southeast Coast District
18-20 March	Flood	5	Coastal rivers between Cooktown and Ingham

18-23 March	Tropical Cyclone	30	Cape Melville to Gladstone
18-25 March	Gale	59	Torres Strait to Coolangatta
19-20 March	Flood	6	Barron River
19-20 March	Flood	6	Johnstone River
19-21 March	Flood	7	Mulgrave and Russell Rivers
20 March	Severe Weather	2	Kowanyama to Torres Strait
22-25 March	Severe Weather	14	Heron Island to Coolangatta
10-11 April	Gale	9	North Eastern Area
15-16 April	Gale	8	North Eastern Area

Disaster Coordination – Citrus Canker

The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) was notified by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) of the possible presence of the bacterial plant disease Citrus Canker on 29 June 2004. On confirmation of tests conducted by DPI&F, the Queensland Disaster Management System (QDMS) was activated in support of DPI&F operations to combat the disease; conduct surveillance; and manage social-economic consequences for community members affected by the identification of the disease and the subsequent embargos placed upon Queensland for movement of citrus fruit.

DPI&F continue to eradicate the disease and work with agencies that have a role in social and economic recovery.

QDMS agencies have worked closely with DPI&F since Exercise Minotaur in 2002, and has assisted DPI&F with the planning

of stand still zones and general disaster management training. The Citrus Canker operation further strengthened these relationships at State, District and Local levels.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Disaster management related courses and activities are conducted by Counter Disaster and Rescue Services (CDRS), Department of Emergency Services. State level training activities conducted during this period include:

Disaster management training

CDRS continues to develop packages as part of the Queensland Disaster Management Training Series. As packages are developed they are being trialed in Brisbane and regional centres prior to final revision and release. During this period the Disaster Management Arrangements, Introduction to Disaster Risk

Management Introduction, Disaster Coordination Centre Management and Evacuation Management packages were completed and trialled.

In addition, training was conducted for State level stakeholders and work continued on the completion of an approved Disaster Management Training Policy.

Refresher training was conducted for 22 Kedron based staff who assist CDRS staff in supporting the State Disaster Coordination Centre during high level operations and/or during protracted operations.

In June 2004 a CDRS staff workshop was held in Brisbane to explore current and emerging issues in disaster management. The workshop and above courses were attended by a total of 69 people.

Emergency Management Australia Institute

CDRS also manages applications to attend courses and workshops, conducted at the Emergency Management Australia Institute (EMAI). In the 2003-2004 financial year, a total of 95 people from a wide range of Local Government and State Agencies attended training at EMAI at Mount Macedon, Victoria. The courses attended were Recovery Management, Emergency Risk Management Phase 1 & 2, Coordinate Resources in a Multi-Agency Response, Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) Incident Emergency, Evacuation Management and Emergency Management for Local Government, Emergency Coordination Centre, Community Engagement, Planning, and Exercise Management Train the Trainer.

CDRS staff have been requested by EMAI to appear as guest lecturers on several of the above courses.

In addition, EMAI staff conducted a four-day Exercise Management course in Brisbane for 25 people from key functional agencies.

Public awareness campaigns

CDRS coordinated the development and delivery of a television, newspaper and radio campaign for severe storms, storm surge, flood and cyclone awareness. Elements of the campaign have been geographically targeted to maximise audience reach and impact.

The campaign commenced with television advertisements and continued into the early months of 2004. A suite of products, including A3 posters, were used to reinforce key messages throughout the 'disaster season'. CDRS also delivered flood and cyclone awareness messages to Indigenous communities via the National Indigenous Radio Service.

STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to being actively involved in regular committees such as the State Disaster Coordination Group, CBR Steering and Working Group committees, Oil Spill Committee, Emergency Management Sector Working Group, and the Civil Defence Plans Working Group, CDRS has been working on the following projects this period:

Upgraded communications

Communication capabilities within the State Disaster Coordination Centre have been upgraded to allow for secure voice and electronic document transmission.

Storm Tide Warning – Response System

The review of the Tropical Cyclone Storm Tide Warning-Response System booklet has been completed and the fifth edition of this booklet was issued in November 2003 to all Local Governments, Community Councils, and Disaster District Coordinators that are subject to storm tides.

State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act Review

Having completed the State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act 1975 review and public consultations, the project team commenced drafting the Disaster Management Bill 2003, which was passed by the Queensland Parliament in November 2003. Due to the need for a thorough and extensive implementation, the Disaster Management Act 2003 was not proclaimed until 31 March 2004, at which time the State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act 1975 was repealed.

Local Government Planning Guidelines

The Local Government Planning Guidelines are being developed to assist Local Governments with enhanced and systematic disaster planning processes. The guidelines will be available later this year.

State Disaster Management Plan

The State Disaster Management Plan review has begun and will include additional sections on aspects of Counter-Terrorism and Critical Infrastructure, as well as clearly showing the structure for crisis management and community consequence management.

Standstill Zones

CDRS has continued working closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to address current stock standstill arrangements and assist with the planning and development of new procedures.

Exercise Fast Ball

Australia's first national counter-terrorism investigation and consequence management exercise (ICMEX), Exercise Fast Ball, was conducted in Brisbane between 29 September and 3 October 2003 by the Queensland and Australian Governments.. The Exercise, conducted under the auspices of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee Exercise Program, had a strong investigation and intelligence gathering focus, as well as focussing on consequence management issues. The Exercise resulted in the State Crisis Centre and the State Disaster Coordination Centre being activated simultaneously. The State Disaster Coordination Group contributed to a whole-of-government response as part of the Queensland Disaster Management System.

Learnings from Exercise Fast Ball have been categorised into operational and strategic projects. These projects are being implemented by an inter-departmental working group, comprising of representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Health, Queensland Transport and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. It is anticipated that the working group, which reports directly to the State Disaster Management Group, will have completed its work on the various projects well before commencement of the next ICMEX to be conducted in Queensland, which is scheduled to take place in July 2005.

Counter-terrorism projects

Queensland's four counter-terrorism projects were consolidated during the year. The Critical Infrastructure Protection project included continued liaison with the Australian Government to ensure Queensland continues to adopt a nationally consistent approach to critical infrastructure protection. A major milestone for this project was the development of a counter-terrorism risk management kit for local governments. This resource

was developed in conjunction with the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) and was launched by the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, Minister for Environment, Local Government and Planning and Women, at the LGAQ Annual Conference in September 2004. The Government Agency Preparedness (GAP) project was expanded to include 22 non-departmental agencies, and these agencies, in conjunction with all Queensland Government departments, are implementing and reviewing security, response

and recovery arrangements in a counter-terrorism context. The Mass Gatherings project progressed with a series of information workshops and one-day counter-terrorism workshops, across the state, for owners and operators of mass gatherings venues. Limited activity was undertaken on the Hazardous Materials Infrastructure (HMI) project through the year, pending outcomes of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Review of Hazardous Materials.

Carriage of postal articles during resupply operations

In the past aircraft chartered by CDRS have not been able to legally carry the “Queen’s Mail” as the Department is not an authorised mail contractor. Agreement has now been reached with Australia Post and an exemption granted by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to overcome these issues. In February 2004, 60 kilograms of postal articles were airlifted during resupply operations to Burketown.

Other reports

INSURANCE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Whilst there were a number of events during the past year that involved damage to property covered by insurance there were two major incidents requiring Insurance Damage Relief Operations (IDRO) mobilisation.

- Hailstorm in the Gold Coast Region on 26 October 2003. There were some 10,600 claims reported to insurers with losses amounting to \$39,738,450.
- Brisbane South East Queensland storms in January 2004. Total number of claims reported was 12,669 with losses equalling \$28,596,200.

Claims were not correlated for other minor events that occurred during the season.

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL (CBR) STEERING COMMITTEE ISSUES

Function

The CBR Steering Committee is responsible for providing strategic level direction for the development of a whole of government CBR response capability.

Membership of the CBR Steering Committee includes:

- Department of Emergency Services (Chair)
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Police Service
- Department of Health
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Year In Review

The CBR Steering Committee met on four occasions (14 July 2003, 4 December 2003, 25 February 2004 and 8 June 2004).

During the year the CBR Steering Committee focussed on:

- Assessing Queensland's CBR response and recovery needs.
- Managing the participation of Queensland Government agencies and local government in the CBR elements of national CT exercises, such as Exercise Fast Ball.

- Coordinating with Emergency Management Australia the allocation of specialist operational equipment and Personal Protective Equipment from the CBR Enhancement Program.
- Developing protocols for the notification and management of incidents thought to be of a biological nature.
- Revising the State Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR incidents.

Year Ahead

In the coming year, the CBR Steering Committee will focus on:

- Addressing lessons learned from the CBR elements of Exercise Fast Ball.
- Further developing whole-of-Government capability through multi-agency training and exercises.
- Enhancing the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and detection and sampling capability throughout Queensland.