



State Disaster Management Group

Annual Report

2006-2007



Queensland Government
State Disaster Management Group



Contents

Letter of transmission.....	3
Executive summary.....	4
State Disaster Management Group.....	5
An overview of Queensland’s disaster management arrangements.....	7
Structure.....	7
Functional arrangements.....	8
Threat-specific arrangements.....	9
Counter-terrorism arrangements.....	9
Disaster management strategic policy framework.....	10
District Disaster Management Groups.....	11
South Western Region.....	12
South Eastern Region.....	14
Brisbane Region.....	15
North Coast Region.....	16
Central Region.....	17
Northern Region.....	19
Far Northern Region.....	20
Agency contributions.....	22
Department of the Premier and Cabinet.....	22
Department of Emergency Services.....	23
Queensland Police Service.....	33
Department of Public Works.....	34
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.....	35
Queensland Health.....	36
Department of Communities.....	38
Department of State Development.....	39
Queensland Transport.....	40
Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation.....	41
Environmental Protection Agency.....	42
Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.....	43
Queensland Pandemic Influenza Task Force.....	44
Disaster Management Alliance.....	44
Glossary.....	46
Elements of the Strategic Policy Framework.....	46
Further information.....	47
Acronyms used in this report.....	48

Letter of transmission

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP
Minister for Emergency Services
GPO Box 1377
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in submitting the fourth annual report of the State Disaster Management Group (State Group) for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. This report highlights the initiatives and actions undertaken by state government agencies that support the Queensland disaster management arrangements and includes legislative reporting requirements and details of operations during the reporting period.

It is recognised that prevention of, preparing for, responding to and recovery from disasters is not a task for the State Group alone. The report demonstrates that disaster management is a complex undertaking and, if it is to be effective, requires a comprehensive all-hazards approach. For Queensland to become a safer and more supportive place, all Queenslanders need to understand and to consider the risks involved and act to protect themselves and their neighbours.

The actions outlined in this report continue to build a better-prepared Queensland community on the basis of a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management.

To keep Queenslanders aware of the initiatives and actions undertaken, the report will be available through the web sites of www.emergency.qld.gov.au and www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

I commend the report to you.

Yours sincerely



Chairperson
State Disaster Management Group

Executive summary

This report is aligned to the seven disaster management elements of the Queensland Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework (SPF) namely: *disaster research, policy and governance and disaster risk assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response and relief and recovery and post-disaster assessment.*

The State Group was fortunate to be addressed by Mr William Jenkins, Jr., Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, United States Government Accountability Office. Mr Jenkins is an international expert on emergency management, having experience in government oversight and lessons learnt from events such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina and has authored numerous high-level reports and appeared before the US Congress as an expert on these issues.

The State continued to support the Tropical Cyclone Larry Operation Recovery Task Force (ORTF) under the leadership of General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC (Retd). The Recovery Task Force activities concluded in 2007 with a hand-back of responsibility of discrete on-going recovery issues to government agencies and community-based providers. Gen. Cosgrove summarised the activities with recommendations and a way forward in *The Final Report of the Operation Recovery Task Force - Severe tropical Cyclone Larry.*

Major activities occurring in the period included:

- » District Disaster Management Groups (District Groups) met in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, reviewed district plans, undertook district disaster exercises and continued to provide support to local governments within their respective districts.
- » Queensland's disaster management arrangements responding to a range of major operations and requests for resupply operations of almost six tonnes of essential foodstuffs to isolated communities.
- » Review and analysis of the lessons that can be learnt from international disaster events such as the 11 September 2001 terrorist event, Hurricane Katrina and the London bombings in July 2005.
- » Establishment of a multi-agency working group, led by Department of Public Works (DPW), to develop a new guideline under Queensland's *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act), entitled *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones: Evacuation and Shelter.*
- » Development and launch of the *Preparing for Cyclones* booklet for dissemination to homes in cyclone prone areas. The objective of the booklet is to assist individuals and families to be ready for cyclones. The booklet includes guidelines for preparing an emergency kit and evacuation plan for the home.
- » Publication of an operational planning guideline for local government to assist in the development of operational community safety plans.
- » Regular and rigorous testing of the state's disaster management arrangements, at tactical and strategic levels through exercises focusing on events such as counter-terrorism, tropical cyclones, mass evacuation, mass casualty and pandemic influenza.

The actions outlined in this report will continue to build a better-prepared Queensland community on the basis of a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management.

State Disaster Management Group

The State Group was established under the Act. This Act forms the legislative basis for disaster management activities across all levels of government in Queensland and its disaster management system. The State Group is the peak disaster management policy and decision-making body in Queensland and is directly responsible for outcomes to the Premier. Under the Act, the main functions of the State Group are to:

- » develop a strategic policy framework for disaster management for the state;
- » ensure an effective disaster management system is developed and implemented for the state;
- » ensure effective arrangements between the state and the Australian government on matters relating to effective disaster management are established and maintained;
- » identify resources within and outside the state that may be used for disaster response operations;
- » provide reports and make recommendations to the Minister about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations; and
- » prepare a State Disaster Management Plan.

The State Group is supported by the:

- » State Disaster Co-ordination Group (SDCG) - an operational co-ordination group; and
- » State Disaster Mitigation Committee (SDMC) - a mitigation policy and planning committee.

During 2006-2007 the State Group met every six months through a mix of Ordinary meetings and Extraordinary meetings. These meetings were conducted in response to a wide range of events including the on-going recovery for communities affected by disaster events such as Tropical Cyclones (TC) Larry and Monica, a tsunami threat to the Australian mainland or islands, flooding at the Sunshine Coast and during Exercise Cumpston 06 (a national pandemic influenza exercise).

Membership

The State Group comprises the Chief Executive of state government departments and an Executive Officer (XO), appointed by the Governor in Council.

Permanent membership

- » Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Chairperson)
- » Director-General, Department of Emergency Services (Deputy Chairperson)
- » Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
- » Director-General, Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
(formerly Department of State Development)
- » Director-General, Queensland Health
- » Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- » Director-General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation
(formerly Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation)
- » Director-General, Department of Communities
- » Director-General, Department of Public Works
- » Director-General, Queensland Transport
- » Executive Director, Emergency Management Queensland who also fulfils the role of Executive Officer for the State Group

Advisers to the State Group

Recent events, including Tropical Cyclones (TC) Larry and Monica and Exercise Cumpston 06 highlighted that some non-member agencies were integral to the planning and decision making process of the State Group. This has resulted in the appointment of the following Permanent Advisers to the State Group:

- » Director-General, Department of Housing
- » Director-General, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
- » Director-General, Environmental Protection Agency
- » Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts
- » Director-General, Department of Mines and Energy

From time to time it may be necessary for the State Group to involve additional government agencies and non government organisations on an 'ad hoc' basis to participate in the business of the Group. The appointment of additional advisers to the State Group will continue to be reviewed to reflect current government priorities and the disaster management arrangements in Queensland.

An overview of Queensland's disaster management arrangements

The Act provides the legislative basis for disaster management arrangements in Queensland including:

- » establishing disaster management groups for the state, disaster districts and local government areas;
 - » detailing planning requirements at each level;
 - » maintaining the role and operations of the State Emergency Service (SES) and establishment of Emergency Service Units (ESUs); and
 - » providing for the conferring of powers on selected individuals and groups.
- » animal diseases, through the *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases*;
 - » pandemic influenza, through the *National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic*; and
 - » terrorism, through the *National Counter-Terrorism Plan* developed by the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC).

Structure

Queensland's whole-of-government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnership arrangements between state and local governments. These arrangements recognise that each level of the disaster management system must work collaboratively to ensure the effective co-ordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.

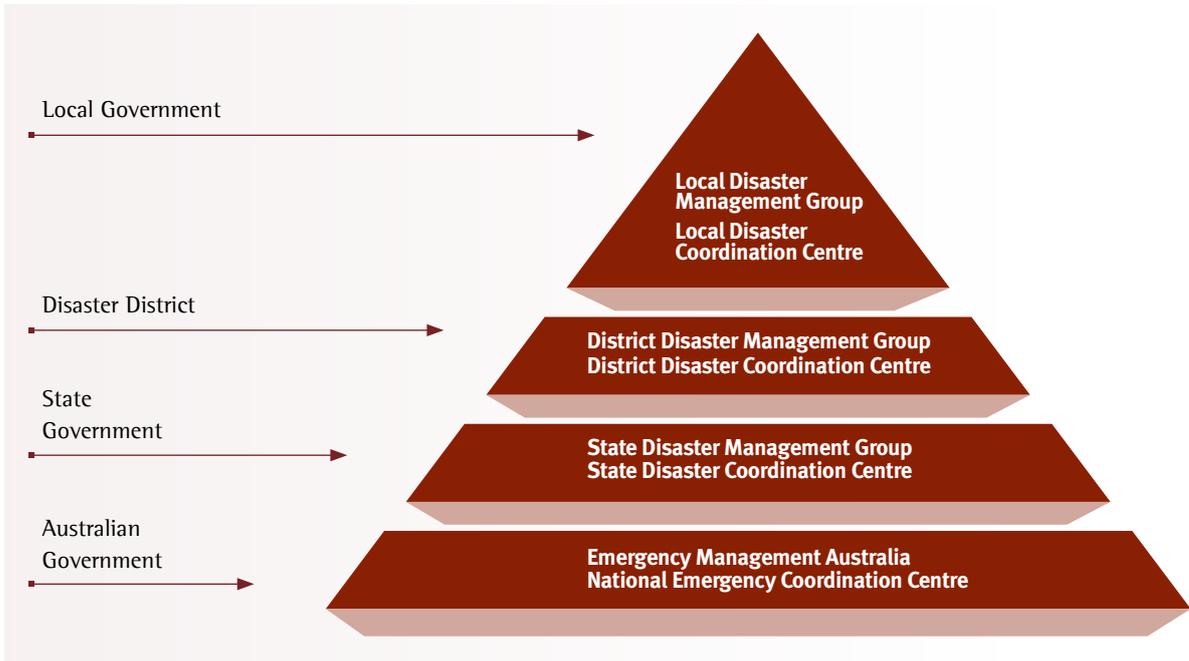
Queensland's tiered disaster management arrangements - based on local, district and state levels, enable a progressive escalation of support and assistance through each tier as required. The Australian government is also included in the system as a fourth level, recognising that Queensland may need to seek federal support in times of disaster.

Queensland's arrangements complement and contribute to the development of disaster management planning and policy at the national level. Queensland is represented on a range of national committees responsible for ensuring co operation and co-ordination of disaster management initiatives across Australia. For example, the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management considers high-level policy issues and the Australian Emergency Management Committee, comprising chief executives of emergency management portfolios across Australia, progresses strategic initiatives. National plans, and complementary state plans, are in place for specific threats such as:

The disaster management system comprises several key management and co-ordination structures through which the functions of disaster management for Queensland are achieved.

The principal structures that make up Queensland's disaster management system are:

- » disaster management groups that operate at local, district and state levels and which are responsible for the planning, organisation, co-ordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate/prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters;
- » co-ordination centres at local, district and state levels that support disaster management groups in co-ordinating 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 co-ordinated; and
- » state government threat-specific lead agencies responsible for the management and co-ordination of combating threats.



Functional arrangements

To provide for the effective co-ordination of state-level capabilities in disaster management, Queensland has adopted the concept of functional lead agencies. Each functional lead agency is responsible to the State Group 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. The specific requirements for each function are established under Memoranda of Understanding between each of the functional agencies and the Department of Emergency Services (DES). The allocation of functional lead agency status to government departments is shown below:

Function	Lead Agency
Building and engineering services	Department of Public Works
Communications	Department of Public Works
Community recovery	Department of Communities
Co-ordination of the disaster management system in Queensland	Department of Emergency Services through Emergency Management Queensland
Dam safety/flooding	Department of Natural Resources and Water
Electricity/fuel/gas supply	Department of Mines and Energy
Emergency supply	Department of Public Works
Health	Queensland Health
Transport and transport engineering	Queensland Transport

Threat-specific arrangements

In addition to functional lead agency responsibilities, Queensland has identified a number of specific potential threats where government departments and agencies have a designated lead agency role. These lead agencies are allocated responsibility to prepare for, respond to and recover from the specific threats based on their core business.

The disaster management system in Queensland could be activated to co-ordinate resources in support of

lead agency operations as required, and is responsible for the management of the wider consequences of a specific threat under arrangements described above.

Representatives of threat-specific lead agencies are members of the SDCG and may be members of disaster management groups at local and district level as required.

The current allocation of threat-specific lead agency status to government departments is as follows:

Threat	Lead Agency
Biological disasters	Queensland Health
Bushfire	Department of Emergency Services through Rural Operations, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
Chemical hazard	Department of Emergency Services through Emergency Management Queensland
Exotic animal/plant disease	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Oil spill at sea	Queensland Transport through Maritime Safety Queensland
Pandemic influenza	Queensland Health
Radiological disasters	Queensland Health
Major crime	Queensland Police Service

Disaster management strategic policy framework

Development of a strategic policy framework (SPF) for disaster management for the state is a function of the State Group under the Act. Queensland's SPF was endorsed by the State Group in February 2006.

The SPF aims to:

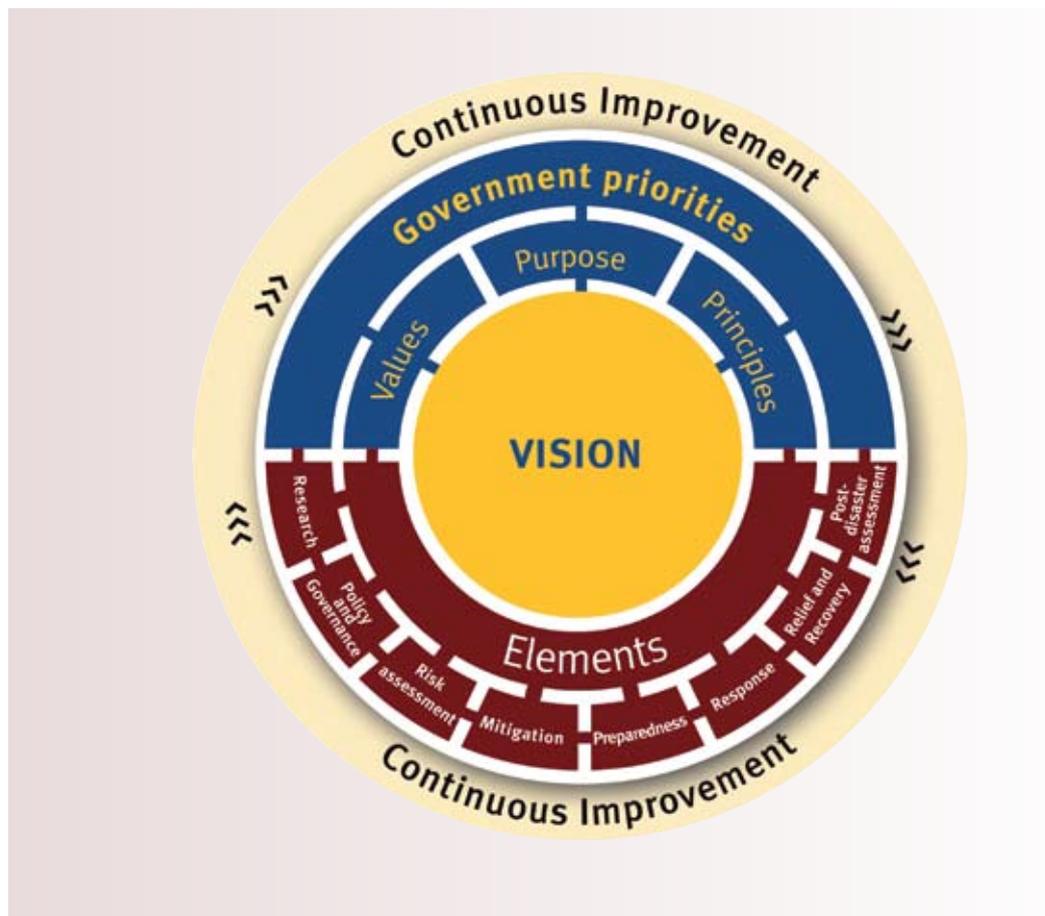
- » articulate the vision for disaster management;
- » outline strategic direction to guide policies and programmes;
- » mainstream disaster mitigation; and
- » outline governance and accountability arrangements to support achievement of disaster management priorities.

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

- » disaster research;
- » policy and governance;
- » disaster risk assessment;
- » disaster mitigation;
- » disaster preparedness;
- » disaster response;
- » disaster relief and recovery; and
- » post-disaster assessment.

Initiatives undertaken across Queensland's disaster management system are reported on under these elements under Agency Contributions to this annual report.

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



South Western Region



Charleville

Located in south west Queensland, the Charleville disaster district covers an area of 243,018 km² with a population of approximately 9,842. The district comprises the local governments of Bulloo, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, and Tambo Shires.

The Charleville District Disaster Management Group (District Group) conducted its scheduled meetings in October and March (pre-and-post storm/flood season) with additional meetings held on an 'ad hoc' basis. Disaster management related activities over the past 12 months included:

- » pandemic influenza planning meeting;
- » Charleville District Group meetings;
- » storm/flood workshop;
- » review of the Tambo Shire local disaster management plan;
- » Introduction to Evacuation Management training course; and
- » review of Murweh Shire local disaster management plan.

All local government disaster management arrangements were reviewed by the respective District Group. The district plan and all functional plans written were reviewed and revised in conjunction with the outcomes of disaster exercises, operational and/or administrative requirements.

With the exception of Paroo Shire, all shires in the district undertook natural disaster risk management studies and have a mitigation plan which identifies natural hazards confronted by their communities. The Local Groups were encouraged to utilise the findings to progress mitigation strategies.

The 2006-2007 period was a relatively quiet operational period for the Charleville disaster district and its Local Groups. However in January 2007 the District Group monitored flood waters and, to pre-empt possible requirements for resupply, maintained contact with outlying properties and collaborated with oil and gas exploration sites to ensure safety.

Dalby

The Dalby disaster district has a population of approximately 35,000 and covers an area of 32,145 km². The disaster district comprises the local governments of Dalby Town, Wambo, Chinchilla, Tara, and Millmerran Shire Councils. The district also comprises part of the Rosalie Shire, which is within the Toowoomba disaster district.

Dalby District Group meetings were conducted in September and March.

During 2006-2007 the Dalby district plan was reviewed and the Dalby and Wambo local disaster management plans completed. Other Local Group plans were reviewed by the Executive Officer (XO) to the District Group in collaboration with the Local Group.

The Dalby district operations conducted in the reporting period involved activation and assistance during the recovery from the Tara storm in March 2007.

All local governments in the Dalby district have conducted natural disaster risk management studies. Where possible local governments incorporate these risk reduction strategies into corporate, strategic and operational plans and review them on a regular basis and, to progress them, link to state and federal funding sources. Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) regional staff will continue to work with local governments to finalise their outstanding study reports associated with these studies and encourage them to utilise study findings. EMQ monitors all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Roma

The Roma disaster district comprises an area of 114,732 km² with a population of approximately 23,491. Located in south west Queensland, the disaster district comprises the eight local government areas of Roma, Bungi, Booringa, Bendemere, Waroo, Balonne, Murilla and Taroom.

The Roma District Group met twice, pre-and-post storm/flood season, with extra meetings conducted on an 'ad hoc' basis either for major operations and/or extraordinary planning.

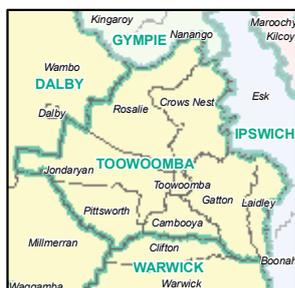
The district plan and all functional plans were reviewed and revised to incorporate disaster exercise, operational and/or administrative requirements. All local government disaster management arrangements will continue to be reviewed annually by their respective management groups.

The 2006–2007 period was relatively quiet operationally for the Roma district and Local Groups with district representatives participating in a number of disaster management related activities.

- » Roma Red Cross community adult education programme disaster management preparedness meeting;
- » Murilla Shire local disaster management plan review meeting;
- » Booringa Shire local disaster management plan review meeting;
- » Introduction to Evacuation Management training course (Roma);
- » Pandemic influenza planning meeting;
- » Roma District Group meeting;
- » Murilla Shire welfare/evacuation planning and local disaster co-ordination centre standard operating procedures meeting;
- » Warroo Shire local disaster management plan review; and a
- » Murilla Local Group exercise.

All Shires, with the exception of Bendemere Shire, have undertaken natural disaster risk management studies and have a mitigation plan which identifies all natural hazards confronting their communities. To progress mitigation strategies, EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to finalise their outstanding study reports associated with these studies and encourage them to utilise study findings. EMQ monitors all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Toowoomba



The Toowoomba disaster district comprises the local government areas of Cambooya, Crows Nest, Gattton, Jondaryan, Laidley, Pittsworth, Rosalie Shire Councils and Toowoomba City

Council. At 30 June 2006, the Toowoomba district had a total population of approximately 177,000 with all local authorities experiencing significant growth.

No major disaster events occurred in the Toowoomba district during 2006–2007 and the District Group was not activated during this period. The Toowoomba District Group was satisfied with the level of operational readiness and ability to adequately respond

to a disaster situation. The District Group continued to meet quarterly with a good attendance by all members.

The district plan was reviewed with minimal amendments required to update the terminology and contact list data. The XO to the Toowoomba District Group will continue to work closely with all local authorities in the development of local disaster management plans.

There were no major exercises conducted in the district. In February 2007 a number of district members undertook the Emergency Management Australia's (EMA) 'facilitate emergency risk management' course. Five projects have been completed under the Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Programme (NDRMSP) and as at 30 June 2007, six projects were behind schedule. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Warwick

The Warwick disaster district comprises the local governments of Warwick, Clifton, Stanthorpe, Waggamba and Inglewood Shire Councils and Goondiwindi Town Council. The Warwick disaster district extends from Clifton in the north across to Yangan, Killarney and the Great Dividing Range in the east, south to Wallangarra and west to Goondiwindi and Talwood. The disaster district covers an area of approximately 33167 km² and has an estimated population of 47,418.

The Warwick District Group held scheduled meetings in March and September (pre-and-post the storm/flood season) with extra meetings as required. The Warwick District Group was not operational during the reporting period however, during 2007 the Warwick district plan was reviewed to ensure its currency.

Waggamba Shire Council and Goondiwindi Town Council combined to establish a joint local disaster management plan for their area. Australian government funding was obtained to engage a consultant to undertake a complete review of the local disaster management arrangements including exercises and training. This review is continuing.

Stanthorpe Shire completed its natural disaster risk management study and has subsequently undertaken to review and rewrite the Stanthorpe Shire disaster management plan. The Stanthorpe Local Group is proactive and met regularly throughout the year.

Clifton Shire completed its NDRMSP and reviewed and revised its disaster management plan to meet current requirements. Clifton Local Group is proactive and met regularly throughout the year.

Inglewood Shire has yet to complete its natural disaster risk management study. A consultant has been engaged to complete the study and undertake a review and rewrite of the disaster management plan.

Warwick Shire has completed its NDRMSP. This resulted in a re-write of the disaster management plan which is awaiting approval of the Warwick Local Group and Shire Council. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.



South Eastern Region

Gold Coast

The Gold Coast disaster district comprises an area of 1,089 km² and an estimated

population of 482,566 with a projected population growth rate of 3.7% per annum for the Gold Coast City.

The Gold Coast District Group met on three occasions during the review period. District Group meetings routinely incorporate elements of disaster management awareness training. For example, in February an Australian Defence Force representative addressed the group on disaster management partnerships and protocols for accessing external support.

The district plan was reviewed and will continue to be reviewed annually. The plan was further reviewed in preparation of disaster management Exercise Ocean Breeze and Exercise Storm in July 2007. The District Group participated in the following exercises:

- » Exercise Sand Piper - September 2006
- » National Exercise Cumpston 06 - October 2006
- » Exercise Benefit 06 - November 2006
- » Tabletop exercises - October and November 2006 and April 2007

The Gold Coast District Group was involved in the response to the tsunami warning on 2 April 2007. This disaster warning resulted in local liaison with the Gold Coast City Council local government authority in terms of disaster response management.

Ipswich

Ipswich District Group covers an area of approximately 7,027 km² and comprises the local government areas of Boonah, Esk and Ipswich. The population of the disaster district, which is located mainly in the towns and cities, is approximately 156,512.

The Ipswich District Group meetings were held quarterly. There were no significant disaster-related events in the 2006-2007 year which allowed for significant effort into the review of the disaster district and all Local Group plans by consultants, KTG Engineering. The Ipswich City Local Group plan was completed in this period with the district, Esk Shire and Boonah Shire plans expected to be completed within the 2007-2008 period.

Ipswich disaster district members participated in a tabletop exercise which provided the opportunity to review the *Royal Australian Air Force Amberley Airport Emergency Plan*. The disaster district also participated in Exercise Maroon Luminary, an exercise which provided a practical example of a terrorist event.

At 30 June 2007, the district had six Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme (NDMP) projects behind schedule and three completed during the reporting period. During this period the Australian government announced approval of two of the three regional flood mitigation fund projects submitted by the Woogaroo Creek Flood Mitigation Project. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Logan

The Logan disaster district comprises three local governments within its boundary, namely Logan City, Beaudesert Shire and the northern part of the Gold Coast City Council. The population of the district is approximately 430,000.

The Logan District Group meetings were held quarterly. A review of local government plans was commenced and on completion the district plan will be thoroughly reviewed and updated.

Logan disaster district was not activated for operational purposes during the 2006-2007 period however, the district remained in a status of operational readiness should a significant event have occurred. The disaster district also participated in Exercise Cumpston, a national pandemic influenza exercise.

NDRMSP and NDMP as at 30 June 2007: four projects in progress, three being finalised and five completed for the 2006-2007 period. These studies largely focused on flooding and bushfire hazards and their associated risks across the disaster district. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist with the progress and completion of these projects and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.



Brisbane Region

Brisbane

The Brisbane disaster district comprises

the Brisbane City, Redlands City and Pine Rivers Shire Councils with an estimated population of 1.5 million. During 2006-2007 the Brisbane District Group meetings were held in August, October, March and June.

The district was involved in several major exercises, such as Exercise Cumpston 06, several council desktop exercises that included scenarios of flooding, rail crashes, central business district (CBD) evacuations and counter-terrorism. In addition, the Brisbane District Group worked with new planning guidelines for the local government areas of Brisbane City, Redlands City and Pine Rivers Shire Councils. A revised operational plan for the District Group was adopted for the Brisbane region. Members of the District Group participated in the development of the CBD evacuation plan by Queensland Police. This participation included several exercises involving terrorism and an all-hazards approach to disaster management. The District Group established a range of protocols for the management of storm seasons, evacuations, pandemic influenza assessment centres and joint operations with Queensland Health (Q-Health) and other related health issues.

At the end of the reporting period, the Brisbane District NDRMSP had four programmes behind schedule and four completed. Under the NDMP - six programmes behind in progress, two on schedule and three completed. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist with the progress and completion of these projects and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Redcliffe

The Redcliffe disaster district comprises the local government areas of Kilcoy and Caboolture Shire Councils and the Redcliffe City Council with an approximate population of 180,104 and a land area of 2,698 km².

The District Group met quarterly with meetings held in March, July, September and December. Training conducted for district members included:

- » pandemic preparedness, reception, response and recovery;
- » Avian influenza preparedness, reception, response and recovery;
- » community recovery; and
- » district recovery, incorporating the four functional areas of recovery (social, infrastructure, economic and environmental).

The district plan was reviewed simultaneously with the Brisbane district plan with both District Groups assisting with the development of the disaster district planning guidelines. The local disaster management plans were reviewed and as at 30 June 2007 the local governments were completing threat-specific and operational plans in accordance with the operational planning guidelines. The Redcliffe district reported no operations conducted for this period.

The District Group conducted two exercises which involved the testing of the recall register and preparedness levels of District Group members.

As at 30 June 2007 Redcliffe District NDRMSP had one programme behind in progress and four completed. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.



North Coast Region

Bundaberg

With a population of around 120,000 the Bundaberg disaster district comprises local government areas of Bundaberg, Burnett, Isis, Kolan, Perry, Eidsvold and Monto. The district is diverse and comprises the major provincial city of Bundaberg and numerous coastal and inland towns.

During 2006–2007 the district focused on maintaining current plans and arrangements, dealing with emergency risks such as pandemic influenza and enhancing community recovery plans through the district community recovery committee.

The district meetings were held on a quarterly basis focusing on key risks in the district. Future meetings will use scenario based planning to assist in plan reviews, plan validation, lead agency capability definition, and team building. The District Community Recovery Committee is also active and pursuing a similar methodology to address community recovery issues.

The Bundaberg District Group maintained a watching brief on TC Odette in early March 2007. The District Group was not formally activated in response to the event.

The Bundaberg Community Recovery Committee was active in its plan preparations and conducted on-the-job training to complete the district community recovery plan.

During 2006–2007 the Bundaberg NDRMSP and NDMP had four study programmes completed, one cancelled and two remaining in progress and four awaiting acquittal. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Gympie

The Gympie disaster district is located north and west of the Sunshine Coast and covers an area of 23,346 km² with an estimated population at 35,702 (June 2006). The district comprises the local government areas of Cooloola, Kilkivan, Murgon, Cherbourg, Wondai, Kingaroy and Nanango.

The Gympie District Group met twice during the period, with the contact list updated at each meeting. The new Gympie disaster management plan is being drafted to reflect the *Queensland Disaster Management Planning Guidelines 2005 for Local Government* and is expected to be completed by June 2008. The data contained in this draft plan will be updated through exercises and real events.

During 2006–2007 Gympie had five study programmes completed and one programme in progress under the NDRMSP and NDMP. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Gympie district members participated in a number of training and development courses which included disaster management arrangements, context of recovery management and a pandemic workshop. Local governments also took part in a course on writing disaster management plans.

The Gympie District Group was involved in two events during 2006–2007, TC Odette event in March and the tsunami warning in April 2007. Both events highlighted the need to ensure timely receipt of information and for education regarding tsunamis.

Maryborough

Maryborough disaster district covers an area of 16,577 km² and, including itinerant workers and tourists, has an estimated population of 110,000. The district comprises the local government areas of Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Tiaro, Woocoo, Biggenden, Gayndah and Mundubbera.

The Maryborough District Group conducted quarterly meetings and continued to develop its capabilities to support communities impacted by disasters and disaster-related events with the focus on developing plans and arrangements for key risks facing the district. During 2006–2007 the Maryborough district NDRMSP and NDMP had five projects completed, eight in progress and one programme cancelled. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

During the reporting period the district focused on exercising and developing plans for a large scale evacuation of the Hervey Bay area, preparing for pandemic influenza and enhancing community recovery plans through the District Community Recovery Committee.

Local disaster management plans continue to be reviewed by individual councils under council arrangements. The district disaster management plan will continue to be reviewed quarterly to ensure contact details and activation arrangements are current. An annual review of the plan is undertaken in conjunction with pre-season meetings and exercises and was last undertaken as a result of Exercise Big Wind in November 2006. The Maryborough District Group maintained a watching brief on TC Odette in early March 2007.

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast disaster district comprises the local government areas of Caloundra City, Maroochy and Noosa Shires. The total district covers an area of 3,123 km² and the population estimated at 295,125 with an average of 25,000 visitors daily.

The Sunshine Coast District Group met six times with a number of training courses conducted through the year with a desktop counter-terrorism exercise conducted in October 2006. District Group members had the opportunity to participate in courses such as pandemic workshop, context of recovery management and disaster plan writing.

Under the NDRMSP and NDMP, the Sunshine Coast projects included:

- » Caloundra City: NDRMSP - three in progress, three completed.
- » Maroochy Shire: NDRMSP - two in progress, one cancelled.
NDMP - one behind, two awaiting final report and acquittal.
- » Noosa Shire: NDRMSP - two completed.
NDMP - one awaiting audit acquittal, one Coastal Storm Surge study in progress.

EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Drafting commenced on the new district disaster management plan for completion in 2008. Local disaster management plans were reviewed following disaster management exercises and real events and at least once annually. The Sunshine Coast district was involved in two events in 2006-2007, TC Odette in March and the tsunami warning in April 2007. Local Groups were activated for a number of local events.

Central Region



Gladstone

The Gladstone disaster district comprises the four local government areas of Banana, Calliope, Miriam Vale Shire and Gladstone City Council. The population of the district is 60,648 with a projected population growth of 7.7% over the next five years.

The Gladstone District Group conducted five scheduled meetings and one district workshop throughout the year. Meetings were held three-monthly outside the cyclone season and on a monthly basis during cyclone season, with additional meetings being held on an 'as needed' basis.

Training, workshops and exercises conducted within the district consisted of:

- » the Disaster Co-ordination Centre (DCC);
- » disaster management arrangements;
- » context of recovery training; and
- » influenza planning groups in the Gladstone and Banana Shires.

A review of the district plan is being undertaken in response to the functional group status reports and updated local disaster management plans. It is proposed for the updated plan to be presented to the November 2007 of the District Group.

Gladstone district participated in two pre-emptive operations, firstly TC Odette in March and the tsunami warning in 2 April 2007. Both operations enabled the Gladstone Local Groups to test their disaster management plans.

As at 30 June 2007, two studies under the NDRMSP were outstanding:

- » Banana Shire Callide Valley flooding risk study; and
- » Miriam Vale natural disaster risk assessment study.

EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Longreach

Local governments in the Longreach disaster district include Aramac, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho, Longreach and Winton. The population of the disaster district is approximately 11,765 with an area of 225,306 km².

The Longreach District Group met in October 2006 with the June 2007 meeting postponed until after 30 June 2007. The Longreach district experienced an active year in disaster management. The group participated in a full tabletop exercise during October 2006 with local government participating in Exercise Short Circuit.

Disaster management training on disaster management arrangements, context of recovery and an influenza workshop were delivered to a number of District Group member agencies and to local governments. Two functional agency members travelled to Rockhampton to participate in external training provided by EMQ.

The disaster management plan was rewritten in November 2005 and will be reviewed during 2007-2008. In 2006 Aramac, Barcoo, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Jericho plans were updated to reflect the *Queensland Disaster Management Planning Guidelines 2005 for Local Government*.

There were no studies under the NDRMSP or NDMP being undertaken within the disaster district.

Mackay

The Mackay disaster district comprises the local government areas of Mackay, Whitsunday, Sarina, Broadsound, Mirani, Nebo and Belyando with a total area of 68,479 km² and an estimated population of 147,000, which represents a 12% increase in population over the past five years.

The Mackay District Group met once in every two months in the non-cyclone threat season and monthly during the cyclone threat season.

Disaster management arrangements courses were delivered across all member agencies. Members of the District Group attended a Queensland Tropical Cyclone Co-ordination Committee (QTCCC) annual *Pre-Season Storm and Cyclone Disaster Management Workshop*.

The district disaster management plan was last rewritten in May 2003. A further review of the plan will be undertaken following completion of a review of plans by local governments within the district, with an expected completion during the 2007-2008 season.

The Mackay DCC was fortunate in that it was not fully activated for actual operations during the 2006-2007 year. During January and February 2007 the disaster district experienced heavy rainfall in a number of areas. This resulted in one resupply task within the Mirani local government area which required a response by District Group membership. Partial activation was also necessary in response to TC Odette in March 2007 and a tsunami alert in April 2007. No taskings were required in relation to these two partial activations.

As at 30 June 2007, the Mackay NDRMSP or NDMP had five programmes awaiting finalisation and six programmes still in progress. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Rockhampton

The Rockhampton disaster district covers an area of approximately 75,090 km². The district group comprises representatives from the local governments of Rockhampton City, Livingstone, Fitzroy, Duaringa, Emerald, Bauhinia, Peak Downs, Mount Morgan and Woorabinda Council.

Twice-yearly meetings of the Rockhampton District Group were held in November 2006 and February 2007, with additional meetings held on a 'needs' basis dependent on activation requirements.

A review of the district plan is being undertaken and responses provided by Local Groups; functional group status reports and updated local disaster management plans are being included. During the 2006-2007 period five of the Local Group plans were reviewed; with two remaining plans in draft form.

Pre-emptive operations commenced in March 2007 in preparation for TC Odette in the Rockhampton and Fitzroy area. This involved activating the DCC, running checks on resources and providing media releases through the Local Group. In April 2007, as a pre-emptive operation in preparation for a tsunami, Livingstone Shire activated its disaster management plan and opened its District Co-ordination Centre (DCC).

As at 30 June 2007, there were five study projects under NDRMSP or NDMP being conducted in the Rockhampton district. Training, workshops and exercises conducted consisted of DCC, disaster management arrangements and context of recovery training, influenza and cyclone workshops and an Local Group exercise at Bauhinia.

Northern Region



Mount Isa

Mount Isa disaster district comprises the eight shire councils of Mount Isa, Boulia, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomadgee, McKinlay and Mornington. The disaster district covers an area of 399,230 km² and although the population of the disaster district is small, estimated at fewer than 40,000, it is widely dispersed.

Mount Isa district group met twice during the year (pre-and-post wet season) with meetings usually well attended by members and with the Local Group representatives attending by telephone, due to the distances involved. Mount Isa district members participated in an exercise relating to pandemic influenza planning and were also represented in an exercise based on biosecurity and bioterrorism.

The Mount Isa district plan was completely rewritten in August 2006 and the Local Group plans reviewed annually by the XO to the District Group.

During the 2006-2007 period the Mount Isa disaster district participated in two significant operations - flooding during January and TC Nelson in February. The flooding involved monitoring the flood levels and resupply of essential foods to Bedourie. Operations for TC Nelson required preparation, response and recovery activities.

During 2006-2007 the Mount Isa NDRMSP and NDMP had three studies completed, six in progress and one programme awaiting acquittal. The Diamantina Shire had an application awaiting an upgrade to the levee banks surrounding the town. Bedourie and the Gulf communities combined to submit a grant application for the mapping of storm surge in the area. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Townsville

The Townsville disaster district comprises the local government areas of Townsville, Thuringowa, Bowen, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Dalrymple, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and Richmond. The disaster district covers an area of 167,338 km² with an estimated population of 217,293.

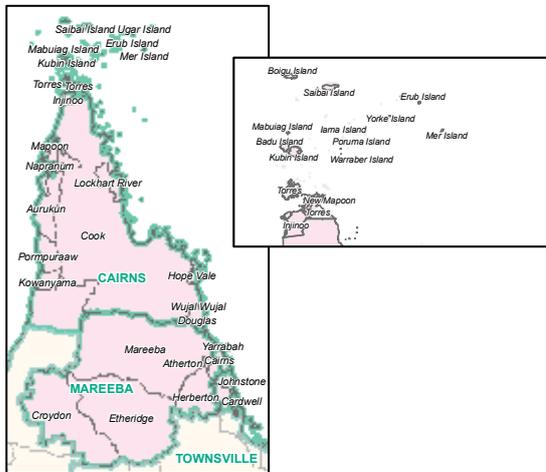
The Townsville District Group met in August and November 2006 and in June 2007. At the June 2007 meeting the Bureau of Meteorology gave a presentation on tsunami and on warning systems and the Australian Red Cross presented on how they can assist the District Group arrangements. In September 2006 members of the District Group participated in Exercise Reef Breaker, a major exercise held over three days.

Following a re-write of the Townsville district plan in 2005, the plan was reviewed in 2006 and again in 2007. The Local Group plans will continue to be reviewed annually by the XO to the District Group, in collaboration with the Local Group.

The Townsville district operations for 2006-2007 involved activation for flooding in the Ingham and Giru areas and monitoring and assisting the Charters Towers/Dalrymple Local Group to deal with flooding of the Burdekin River and isolated properties during February.

As at 30 June 2007, Townsville NDRMSP and NDMP had 13 studies completed, 11 in progress and four awaiting acquittal. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Far Northern Region



Cairns

The Cairns disaster district is located in the far north of Queensland and covers an area of some 600,000 km² with a total of 32 distinct local government areas, including 13 Aboriginal Community Councils and 15 Island Councils.

Cairns district convened eight regular meetings for the 2006–2007 financial year with four of these meetings combined with the Innisfail and Mareeba District Groups. Several special meetings were called during the TC Nelson event in February and during April a meeting was called in response to the tsunami alert.

Six training courses were delivered to a combination of local governments, Local Group and District Group members. Content covered included severe weather, disaster management pandemic planning, pandemic influenza planning workshops, disaster management arrangements and tsunami planning.

The Cairns district plan and local disaster management plans were reviewed during the reporting period.

In comparison to previous years, there were relatively few operations conducted during 2006–2007 in the Cairns disaster district with only two operations conducted; these being TC Nelson in February and the tsunami alert on 2 April 2007.

30 June 07 NDRMSP and NDMP: Cairns district had five programmes completed, one in progress, three withdrawn and seven behind schedule in providing the project milestones. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Innisfail

The Innisfail disaster district comprises the combined Johnstone and Cardwell Shire Councils with a combined permanent population of approximately 29,900.

The Innisfail District Group convened eight meetings during the year with four of these meetings combined with the Cairns and Mareeba District Groups. Innisfail district meetings were held monthly from November to May and once in every two months July to September.

There were nine organised disaster management related training courses conducted within the disaster district covering a range of topics, such as severe weather, pandemic influenza planning, disaster management arrangements and tsunamis. These courses were targeted to local governments, members of the Local Groups and District Group members.

In October 2006 the Innisfail District Group plan was reviewed and updated and subplans produced by the functional committees reviewed. Local disaster management plans were reviewed by a working group from the various Local Groups, with operational plans being reviewed by a working group led by the designated responsible agency.

Two operations were conducted in the district in 2006–2007, these being TC Nelson in February and the tsunami alert on 2 April 2007. The tsunami alert resulted in a continued focus in relation to planning and community awareness regarding a possible tsunami impact.

Within the Innisfail disaster district four NDRMSP and NDMP studies have been completed and two still in progress at the end of June 2007. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Mareeba

The Mareeba disaster district comprises the six local government areas of Atherton, Mareeba, Eacham, Herberton, Croydon and Etheridge with a population of 42,267, covering an area of 132,153 km².

The Mareeba District Group convened eight meetings for the 2006–2007 financial year with four of these meetings combined with the Cairns and Innisfail District Groups. During the tropical cyclone threat season meetings were conducted monthly and once in every two months during May to September.

The Mareeba disaster district completed five study programmes under NDRMSP and at the end of 30 June 2007 there was one NDMP in progress to mitigate against the impacts of identified risks. EMQ regional staff will continue to work with local governments to assist in progressing these projects to completion and to monitor all mitigation programmes on an on-going basis.

Training courses were conducted on a range of subjects including severe weather, disaster management arrangements, pandemic influenza and tsunamis. The five training courses conducted were targeted at local governments and members of the Local Group and District Group.

The Mareeba district plan was reviewed and during the annual review process functional sub-plans also reviewed. The local disaster management plans within the Mareeba district were reviewed by a working group from the various Local Groups and the operational plans were reviewed by a working group led by the designated responsible agencies.

The Mareeba district was operational during TC Nelson, which caused widespread rainfall leading to flooding throughout the Gulf Country. Two people were rescued from Dinah station, 150 kilometres north of Karumba, after a fallen tree badly damaged their homestead.

Agency contributions

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

During 2006–2007 the DPC played an important role in Queensland's disaster management system through:

- » chairing the business of the State Group;
- » contributing to specific disaster response and recovery initiatives; and
- » co-ordinating a range of activities that contribute to disaster preparedness.

Disaster response and recovery

Initiatives

- » **Recovery from TC Larry**
DPC continued to co-ordinate a range of activities to support the recovery from TC Larry including:
 - » providing the TC Larry Relief Appeal Fund Distribution Committee with support to process applications and distribute funds;
 - » thank-you family days were held in Brisbane and Innisfail for workers and volunteers (September and October 2006);
 - » a programme of over 12,000 Commemorative Pins and 447 Certificates of Special Commendation, and three Honours in the Order of Australia; and
 - » the official function in Innisfail on the first anniversary of the TC Larry on 20 March 2007.
- » **Regional aid assistance**
DPC managed the Queensland government's aid assistance of around \$10million for countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2005 earthquake in Central Java.

Disaster preparedness

DPC progressed a range of initiatives that contributed to disaster preparedness, including:

- » developing an information management system to enhance critical information sharing between agencies linked to the State Crisis Centre;
- » the Queensland Public Information Arrangements Strategy and related arrangements for the Public Information Co-ordination Centre; and

- » developing an Automated Notification System to pass counter-terrorism and counter-disaster information to government and private sector stakeholders.

Tsunami preparedness

The department supported the Premier in his leadership of the Queensland government preparedness for a tsunami event, including:

- » participating in the tsunami workshop on 12 April 2007;
- » participating in a series of initiatives to protect Queensland communities by identifying areas most at risk of tsunamis, developing reliable and effective systems to alert communities of impending hazards and raising awareness of and education about the hazards of tsunamis;
- » providing strategic guidance to those activities; and
- » supporting co-operation with other states and territories and the Australian government on a range of national initiatives, including developing common protocols for building community preparedness, alerting the public and tsunami inundation modelling.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

DPC supported the activities of the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Task Force (QPIT) and co-ordinated work around industry preparedness, legislative preparedness and public information. DPC also contributed to the involvement of the Public Information Co-ordination Centre during Exercise Cumpston 06, in October 2006, a national preparatory exercise relating to a pandemic situation.

Support to Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) 2007

DPC led the multi-agency group that prepared for and provided the protective security, emergency response and health services support to the Queensland-based APEC 2007 meetings. The preparation for APEC 2007 included DPC's participation in counter-terrorism Exercise Maroon Luminary in December 2006, which improved both Queensland's State Crisis Centre capability and the planning for the Queensland-based APEC 2007 events.

Future priorities

- » Provide support for protective security, emergency response and health services support to the final Queensland-based APEC 2007 meetings during July and August 2007.
- » Continue to enhance Queensland's counter-terrorism arrangements, including enhancing the State Crisis Centre facilities to manage major incidents and the development and implementation of a plan to protect mass gatherings from terrorism.
- » Continue to develop the Queensland Public Information Arrangements including the development of the capabilities of the Public Information Co-ordination Centre.
- » Contribute to Queensland's preparation for an pandemic influenza.

Department of Emergency Services

The Emergency Services portfolio is responsible for ensuring the delivery of essential emergency services state-wide and for the administration of an effective disaster management and emergency services system. This includes:

- » planning, co-ordinating and facilitating preparation for, and response to, emergencies and disasters;
- » reducing vulnerability and hazards associated with emergencies and disasters; and
- » building community capacity and resilience to prepare for, respond to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

EMQ, a division of DES, co-ordinates emergency management in Queensland under two Acts of Parliament: *Disaster Management Act 2003* and the *Dangerous Goods and Safety Management Act 2001* (DGSM Act) and supporting regulations. Under these Acts, EMQ's key responsibilities under legislation include:

- » implementation of an effective disaster management system;
- » establishment and management and co-ordination of a state-wide disaster response and recovery capability, including the SES and Emergency Helicopter Services;
- » facilitation of effective mitigation of the effects of disasters on public infrastructure;

- » development of community capacity and capability to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies; and
- » ensuring major hazard and related facilities meet regulatory requirements for handling of hazardous goods and safe operation of major hazard facilities.

EMQ contributes to safer, more resilient and sustainable communities through:

- » leading and co-ordinating activities undertaken before, during and after a disaster or emergency to minimise adverse community impacts;
- » disaster awareness and hazard reduction services including community safety and education programmes, chemical hazard safety management and the Emergency Services Cadets;
- » response and recovery services including SES volunteers, ESUs, EMQ Helicopter Rescue, state disaster response management; and
- » supporting volunteer marine rescue organisations, including Surf Life Saving Queensland, as well as contract and community helicopter search and rescue providers.

The division delivered its services from:

- » the emergency services headquarters at Kedron;
- » Seven regional offices and 12 area offices (7 area offices are co-located within regional offices);
- » Three EMQ helicopter rescue air bases (and regional community air bases); and
- » numerous volunteer locations.

EMQ continues to take the lead for the state in the co-ordination of whole-of-government emergency management in Queensland.

Disaster research

During 2006-2007 the department undertook research in the following areas:

- » Volunteer management best practice and alternative service delivery models for the emergency services sector.
- » International perspectives on standards and protocols for rapid post-disaster damage assessment.
- » Review and analysis of the lessons that can be learnt from the international disaster events of the 11 September 2001 terrorist event and Hurricane Katrina in the United States of America and the London bombings in July 2005.

- » Cabinet continuity in the wake of a catastrophic disaster.
- » A 'gap' analysis was conducted of the COAG:
 - » National disaster management policy framework;
 - » Natural Disasters in Australia: *Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements*;
 - » National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management; and
 - » Review Australia's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic disasters.
- » Collaborating with the University of Queensland in its 2007 internship programme on topics focusing on disaster management. An outcome from this collaboration was the report: *Resilience, Recovery and Emergency Management - Modeling the Resilience of Communities (Jane Deguara)*. The purpose of the report is to contribute to an understanding of resilience and its role in the relief and recovery of emergency management, through a summary of current research and the construction of a resilience model.

Policy and Governance

- » Administration of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and the *Dangerous Goods and Safety Management Act 2001* and supporting regulations.
- » Assist in development of a whole-of-government policy dealing with management and chemical emergencies and recovery.
- » Contribute to the development of whole-of-government Pandemic Influenza Plan.

Tsunami project

- » March 2007 - focus groups were conducted in Mackay and at the Gold Coast to assess public awareness of tsunamis.
- » 12 April 2007 - DES conducted a tsunami workshop in Brisbane to consider tsunami issues, following the 2 April tsunami threat to eastern Australia.
- » 19 April 2007 - Queensland delegates attended a pilot Introduction to Tsunami for Emergency Managers (ITEM) workshop in Perth, organised by EMA.
- » Future project priorities:
 - » Improvements in spatial information and mapping capacity through funding of \$4.567 million allocated to DES under the State government's election commitment 2006.

- » ITEM workshops to be conducted across the state, in conjunction with Australian government agencies, EMA, Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau).
- » Establishment of a Tsunami Project Steering Committee to oversee tsunami initiatives in Queensland, in conjunction with the State Group.
- » Multi-agency working groups to be established to progress tsunami initiatives in relation to data collection and modelling, community warning and community education and awareness.
- » Queensland to contribute to national initiatives, including representation on the Australian Tsunami Working Group (ATWG) and participation in the National Forum for Emergency Warnings for the Community (NFEWC).
- » Queensland to contribute to national publications and systems, in particular, EMA tsunami publications and the Australian Tsunami Warning System (and related documents), being developed by the Bureau and GA.

A review of Queensland's disaster management arrangements

A review was conducted of the disaster management system in Queensland, incorporating lessons learnt from disaster events in Australia and overseas, including TC Larry in northern Queensland in March 2006, Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005 and the London bombings in 2005. The review also took into account the findings of the Queensland Audit Office Report 2004-2005, *Audit of the Queensland Disaster Management System*.

The review report, *Review of Disaster Management Arrangements in Queensland*, contained 22 recommendations for further work to ensure that disaster management arrangements in Queensland are flexible, sustainable and scalable to be able to manage disaster events of all scales and types.

Future priorities include:

- » Development of governance arrangements to further the work identified in the review report, including establishment of a high-level steering committee, with representation from the DPC, QPS, and DES.
- » Establishment of a project team led by DES, to co-ordinate a whole-of-government approach towards implementation of the recommendations.

- » Prioritisation of the review report's recommendations, based on a comparative risk analysis.

Disaster risk assessment

The department supported the Regional Organisations of Councils of Local Government to identify common community disaster management risks.

Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Programme and Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme

- » From 1 July 2005, the NDRMSP was incorporated into the NDMP. All three levels of government provide funding under a cost-sharing agreement to support these programmes, which are administered in Queensland by DES through EMQ.
- » Local governments and other eligible organisations apply for funding under the NDMP (from 2003-2004 to 2007-2008) to undertake natural disaster risk management Studies and resource mitigation initiatives.
- » This national programme provides funds to local and state agencies for natural disaster mitigation works, measures and related activities that contribute to safer and sustainable communities which are better prepared to cope with the effect of natural disasters.
- » In Queensland 27 mitigation proposals (including four reapplications) for a total of \$66M for the 2006-2007 year were approved for funding to commence mitigation initiatives.

Bushfire Mitigation Programme

- » On 8 September 2004, the Prime Minister announced the allocation of a \$15 million Bushfire Mitigation Programme (BMP) over three years for the construction, maintenance and signage of fire trail networks to assist local communities to better prepare for bushfires.
- » Through a cost-sharing arrangement all three levels of government provide funding under this programme, which in Queensland is administered by DES on behalf of the Australian government Department of Transport and Regional Services.
- » Through this programme, local and state agencies can apply for funding to construct and maintain fire trails and associated accessibility measures that contribute to safer, sustainable communities better able to prepare for, respond to and withstand the effects of bushfires.

- » In Queensland during the 2006-07 financial year 49 new proposals were approved for funding to commence bushfire mitigation initiatives.
- » On 27 April 2007 the Prime Minister announced the continuation of the BMP over four years (2007-2008 to 2010-2011) with \$20 million available nationally.

'Working Together To Manage Emergencies' initiative

- » In 2004 the Australian government announced the 'Working Together to Manage Emergencies' policy initiative in recognition of the need to develop self-reliance at the community and local government level to enhance community safety in Queensland.
- » Over a four year period this initiative will provide \$49 million in grants through two programmes, namely the Local Grants Scheme (LGS) and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF) and is administered in Queensland by DES (through EMQ) on behalf of EMA.
- » The LGS provides grants at the local government level to assist communities to develop and implement emergency risk management initiatives, identify vulnerabilities with a view to enhancing protective measures for critical infrastructure and provide emergency management and security awareness training for local government staff.
- » The NEVSF provides grants for projects developed to boost the recruitment, retention and training of volunteer organisations at the frontline of emergency management.
- » During 2006-2007, 41 new funding proposals (totally \$2M) were approved under the LGS and 31 new proposals for funding were approved under the NEVSF.

State Emergency Service Non-Recurrent Subsidy Programme

The aim of the SES Non-Recurrent Subsidy Programme is to provide assistance to local governments in providing a high-quality emergency and disaster service by supporting the activities of the SES. Eligible projects include SES:

- » accommodation (purchase, construction, modification/renovation, extension and/or land for SES Units/Groups);
- » motor vehicle and accessories (acquisition or replacement of rescue vehicles and outfitting of necessary accessories for SES Units/Groups); and
- » office equipment (purchase of office equipment required for the effective operation of SES Units/Groups).

During the 2006-07 financial year 18 new applications for accommodation subsidies, 18 new applications for motor vehicle subsidies, 10 applications for motor vehicle accessories subsidies, and eight new applications for office equipment subsidies were approved.

Disaster mitigation

- » Development and launch of the *Preparing for Cyclones* booklet for dissemination to homes in cyclone prone areas. The objective of the booklet is to assist individuals and families to be ready for cyclones. The booklet includes guidelines for preparing an emergency kit and evacuation plan for the home.
- » Development of standardised storm tide mapping for the Queensland coastline to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response to flooding events during disaster management planning and operations.

State Disaster Mitigation Committee

The SDMC is a non-legislated subcommittee of the State Group and its role is to foster mainstreaming of disaster mitigation across all levels of government in Queensland to reduce the risk, damage and losses from disasters. The SDMC provides advice and assistance to the State Group on mitigation initiatives. In December 2006 the State Group in committee:

- » endorsed a 2006-2007 SDMC Work Plan, which outlined a proposal for the committee to focus on hazard identification mitigation policy and community safety.
- » Endorsed the establishment of a Mitigation Policy Working Party to develop a framework for a State Mitigation Policy, which would support the SPF. On completion this policy will be submitted to the State Group for consideration and approval.

Through the QTCCC, annual *Pre-Season Storm and Cyclone Disaster Management Workshops* were conducted during September, October and November in key locations across the state. Workshop outcomes were provided to meetings of the SDMC and QTCCC. Additionally, EMQ Regional Directors were provided with a summary report of workshops actions to progress.

EMQ undertakes the Secretariat responsibilities for this committee.

Local government operational planning guidelines

EMQ headquarters and regional personnel, in conjunction with 20 local disaster management groups and five District Groups, were involved in the

development of a document: *Operational Planning Guidelines for Local Disaster Management Groups*.

These guidelines were launched by the Minister for Emergency Services at a December 2006 Cyclone Summit held in Cairns. A copy of the document has been provided to all District Groups and Local Groups and is now the basis for the development of operational planning at the local level.

Disaster preparedness

- » DES worked with all levels of the Queensland disaster management system to develop and implement disaster plans and policies. The department will plan and prepare for all-hazards through multi-service initiatives by collaborative regional planning and co-ordination and by participating in cross-agency exercises.
- » Produced a translation of a cyclone awareness brochure into other languages (under the Multicultural Action Plan).
- » Implementation of the National Emergency Management Strategy for Remote Indigenous Communities.
- » Convened an annual Natural Disaster Summit to improve whole-of-government and community preparedness for cyclones.
- » DES has boosted the preparedness and responsible capability of its volunteers in existing radio communications infrastructure.
- » Expansion of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy (QCESA) to create a world-class facility to enhance the practical scenario-based training for emergency services workers to better prepare them to respond to, and manage, a diverse range of incidents and emergencies.
- » EMQ is committed to recruiting and retaining volunteers to enable the SES to deliver essential emergency services in their communities. Volunteers are supported through appropriate training, management, insurance and resources.
- » A commitment by QFRS to implement command, leadership and management strategies to support the all-hazards approach to disaster management.

State Disaster Co-ordination Group

The SDCG is a non-legislated subcommittee of the State Group and its role is to provide advice and assistance on preparation for disasters and to provide operational efforts to District Groups and Local Groups during times of operation. The group meets once in every two months with group Secretariat responsibilities held by EMQ.

In October 2006 the SDCG participated in the national pandemic exercise: Exercise Cumpston 06. On 30 October an extraordinary meeting was held to discuss issues identified during the exercise with outcomes provided to the State Group for consideration at its December 2006 meeting.

Emergency Service Units

Established under the Act, ESUs are volunteer emergency services groups located in rural and remote areas of Queensland. These groups provide their communities with some, or all, of the functions traditionally associated with rural fire brigades, SES units and QAS Community First Responder groups from within a single, unified and co-located structure.

The key rationale for the integration of these functions was that many rural and remote communities do not have the infrastructure or human or physical resources to be able to sustain multiple volunteer emergency response agencies.

During 2006–2007 four additional ESUs were established: two in Indigenous communities in the Torres Strait and two in central Queensland. This brings the total number of ESUs so far established by the department to six. There are plans to establish at least three further units over the next financial year.

Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management (CHEM) Services - Preparedness

CHEM Services, a unit of EMQ, continues to lead the development of the recovery plan and policy initiatives to improve government's capacity to respond to major chemical incidents. The unit contributed to the Accelerated Planning Initiative of Government, which is reviewing industrial estates in Queensland.

CHEM Services directly regulates major hazard facilities under the DGSM Act by assessing the safety reports of facilities and conducting site audits. These whole-of-government audits are co-ordinated by CHEM Services with officers from the QFRS, Department of Industrial Relations, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Mines and Energy and contributions from local government, as appropriate. Nine major hazard facilities were audited during the year. Emergency plans and procedures were assessed as part of the audits.

The Dangerous Goods safety team completed the multi-agency inspection phase of the State-wide programme. Approximately 130 major chemical storages, classified as Large Dangerous Goods Locations (LDGL) under the DGSM Act. The aim of this programme is to identify the likely consequences of a major fire or other HazMat incident at major

chemical storages across Queensland, and to assess compliance with the DGSM Act and other relevant legislation. The target premises have been drawn from the department's LDGL database and represent the 'high end' of LDGL in terms of quantity of dangerous goods stored.

Volunteer and disaster management equipment training and equipment - implementation of the Volunteer Support Package

Under the Volunteer Support Package, and through election commitment funding, the following initiatives were progressed to provide additional equipment to improve preparedness and response capability:

- » Floodboats: one 4.1 metre polycraft floodboat and four floodboat outboard motors at a cost of \$53,205 (excluding GST) were supplied to Cooroy, Gympie and Mount Isa;
- » twelve rescue trailers at a cost of \$99,654 (excluding GST) were supplied to SES Groups located at Edmonton, Brisbane, Biloela, Capella, Moranbah, Gloucester, Jericho, Coolum, Kawana, Kingaroy, Goodna and Talwood;
- » eight road accident rescue (medium hydraulic) kits at a cost of \$301,871 (excluding GST) were provided to SES Groups located at Alexandra Bay, Kowanyama, Aurukun, Lockhart River, Normanton, Pentland, Rolleston and Wallumbilla;
- » protective clothing: 2,514 sets were supplied to SES volunteers, at a cost of \$233,741 (excluding GST);
- » wet/cool weather jackets: 903 jackets, 595 fleece liners and 209 quilt liners at a cost of \$128,175 (excluding GST) were issued to SES volunteers;
- » kevlar helmets: 3,872 helmets at a cost of \$327,377 (excluding GST) and 2,891 webbing belts at a cost of \$54,200 (excluding GST) were supplied to SES volunteers;
- » safety at heights upgrade kits: 120 were issued to SES groups, at a cost of \$62,673 (excluding GST); and
- » two regional stores were set up in Cairns and Townsville for the storage of tarpaulins, sandbags, ladders, generators, chainsaws and other storm damage equipment.

Disaster management training

During 2006–2007 the department:

- » continued to offer and support disaster management training to enhance the preparedness and readiness of agencies to respond to events. Whilst this training continued to focus on Queensland's disaster management

arrangements and disaster risk management, the programme was expanded to include training in the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS);

- » provided disaster management training incorporating disaster mitigation concepts to 1,551 persons from agencies that support the Queensland disaster management system;
- » continued to provide the Emergency Services Cadet Programme, which supported 48 cadet groups across Queensland to secondary school aged young people. Central to this programme is the development of disaster awareness, and preparedness and emergency services skills; and
- » worked collaboratively with the DPC to develop and distribute community education materials to raise the preparedness of cyclone-prone communities. The booklet *Preparing for Cyclones* has been distributed to approximately 450,000 vulnerable residents across Queensland.

State Disaster Co-ordination Centre (SDCC) Training

To provide a surge capability during protracted operations, EMQ, through its Disaster Operations unit, conducted regular training sessions for EMQ and other DES divisional staff who are interested in assisting the SDCC during operational periods. These sessions alternated between delivering theoretical training and exercises, which allowed participants to learn in a 'hands-on' environment to reinforce the training. Five training sessions and six exercises were conducted during 2006-2007 to provide enhanced support to the SDCC during protracted operations.

State Crisis Centre liaison officers training

Two training sessions were conducted for five DES senior executives who will fulfil a liaison officer role at the State Crisis Centre in the event of a terrorist incident.

SDCC Counter-terrorism training

Two training sessions were held for SDCC staff and the State Group's Duty Managers and Duty Officers. A total of 12 people attended the two training sessions with this training culminating in a discussion exercise.

Major disaster management exercises

The State Group met its legislative requirements under the Act to ensure disaster management plans are reviewed for their effectiveness at least once a year, in part by the development and delivery of exercises. Exercises also form part of an on-going comprehensive all-hazards disaster management programme designed to enable relevant individuals and groups to practise and evaluate their systems and processes.

With the exception of a real event, exercises provide the most valuable method of reviewing effectiveness. Outlined below are major disaster management exercises conducted in Queensland during the reporting period.

Exercise Reef Breaker (*tropical cyclone*)

The Townsville District Group, Townsville/Thuringowa, Hinchinbrook, Bowen and Charters Towers/Dalrymple Local Groups participated in Exercise Reef Breaker, which was conducted in Townsville from 12 to 15 September 2006. The purpose of the exercise was to review the effectiveness of policies and procedures at local and disaster district level for preparation, evacuation, damage assessment and recovery phases during an event. It also tested primary and alternative means of communication between groups.

Exercise Cumpston 06 (*influenza pandemic*)

Exercise Cumpston, a national exercise held over 16 to 19 October 2006, was led in Queensland by Q-Health working in partnership with the DPC, EMQ, the State Group, SDCG, Brisbane and Logan District Groups and various non-government organisations.

The exercise tested the capacity and capability of the Australian health response to a pandemic in accordance with the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza*. It also assessed surveillance and response policies and systems, decision making structures, co-ordination mechanisms, and the relationship between the Australian government Department of Health and Ageing and other federal and state agencies.

Exercise Galvanise (*mass evacuation*)

Exercise Galvanise was a discussion exercise conducted by the QPS in Brisbane on Tuesday 24 October 2006. The exercise examined the key issues of the Brisbane Central Business District Emergency Plan and related sub plans (traffic, public transport co-ordination, media and public information, communications and mass warning).

These plans were the culmination of research, planning and development by a multi-agency committee comprising the Queensland state government, DPC, DES, QPS, Queensland Health, Brisbane City Council and Queensland Transport (including the Department of Main Roads and Queensland Rail). The plans, concepts and risk mitigation strategies were also reviewed by external observers from relevant agencies in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

Maroon Luminary (*counter-terrorism*)

A national counter-terrorism exercise, Exercise Maroon Luminary was conducted in Cairns from 4 to 6 December 2006 and was jointly sponsored by the Australian and Queensland governments. Maroon Luminary tested state and national capabilities to respond to a terrorist incident in Cairns. The exercise was part of a series of counter-terrorism activities held regularly in metropolitan and regional cities around the nation.

Exercise Ouzel 07 (*mass casualty*)

As part of the preparations for the APEC 2007 meetings, a mass casualty exercise was conducted in Cairns 23 to 24 April 2007. Although the exercise focused on the response and evacuation procedures at a tactical and operational level to a mass casualty incident, elements of the Cairns District Group played an active role.

The exercise went beyond the standard first response procedures to mass casualty incident multi-agency incident management roles, as it also focused on examining the command and control structures of participating agencies in responding to a multi-jurisdiction incident in the APEC meeting environment and the response issues associated with foreign representatives attending APEC meetings.

Exercise Baywatch (*tropical cyclone*)

In consultation with disaster management regional and local representatives from the North Coast region, Exercise Baywatch was conducted in Hervey Bay over 1 to 3 May 2007.

The exercise assessed and reviewed the effectiveness of disaster management preparedness across the Maryborough disaster district and Maryborough and Hervey Bay Local Groups, particularly in relation to a significant cyclone event through high-level facilitated discussion.

Exercise Ocean Storm (*tropical cyclone*)

This one day disaster management desktop exercise was designed around a hypothetical but realistic TC scenario affecting the Queensland south-east region and surrounding areas. The District Groups and Local Groups participated in the exercise, which was conducted on 20 June 2007 at the Gold Coast DDC.

Positive feedback showed that the exercise enhanced whole-of-government disaster management relationships and interrelationships at a local and district level. It also reviewed the effectiveness of policies and procedures at local and disaster district level for preparation, response, evacuation, damage assessment and recovery phases during an event.

Disaster response**State Disaster Co-ordination Centre****July 2006 - Sugarcane Smut**

Following an outbreak of sugarcane smut near Childers and Bundaberg in mid June the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) continued its operations to contain this serious disease, which can cause total crop loss in susceptible species. Thirty-nine Rural Fire Service and SES volunteers were deployed to the affected area to assist DPI&F with its field operations.

July 2006 - Search for missing person

A bushwalker was reported missing on 9 July during inclement weather on Mount Bartle Frere (south of Cairns). As all emergency helicopter resources were being used to full capacity and poor weather was hampering the search, the SDCC submitted a request to the Australian government for the provision of a defence helicopter to assist with the search operation. The missing person was found safe on 12 July.

September 2006 - Hinchinbrook flooding

Torrential rain associated with storm activity over 1 to 2 September 2006 caused localised flooding in the Hinchinbrook and Ingham area (north of Townsville), resulting in significant damage to road networks in the region. Australian/state governments Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA) were activated for the restoration of essential public assets, counter disaster operations and concessional loans to primary producers.

15 November 2006 - storms Brisbane

Severe storms impacted communities in the Brisbane and south east Queensland Area on Wednesday 15 November, 2006. Damage was caused by rain, hail and damaging winds. As personal hardship and distress resulted, requiring emergency grant, emergency accommodation, household repairs and household contents replacement assistance, the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) were activated.

16 December 2006 – south east Queensland storms

Severe storms impacted communities in the south east Queensland area on Saturday, 16 December 2006. Extensive damage was caused by rain, hail and very strong wind gusts. Due to personal hardship, damage to essential public assets and extensive debris clean-up requirements, the Australian/state governments NDRA were activated.

December 2006 – New South Wales bushfire deployment

Due to extreme bushfires in the Coonabarabran area of New South Wales, EMQ personnel and SES volunteers were deployed with a QFRS Task Force that had been requested by New South Wales to support their operations. EMQ staff also supported QFRS in the State Operations Co-ordination Centre.

January to February 2007 - western and northern Queensland flooding

From January to February 2007 severe weather conditions, associated with an active monsoon trough and a tropical low, resulted in torrential rain, high winds and widespread flooding throughout northern and western Queensland areas. This resulted in substantial damage to road infrastructure and inconvenience to impacted communities. Australian/state governments NDRA were activated for the restoration of public assets and counter disaster operations.

February 2007 - TC Nelson

TC Nelson formed in the Gulf of Carpentaria and crossed the Queensland coastline north of Karumba as a Category 2 cyclone. Very large significant wave heights were recorded at Weipa and a 1.1m storm surge was also recorded at Weipa, which was to the north of the cyclone track. Had the maximum surge recorded at Karumba (0.8m) occurred on the spring tide, four days earlier, the actual storm tide would have been 0.6m above Highest Astronomical Tide, and may have resulted in substantial flooding in and around Karumba. Ten crew members were winched from the disabled mineral barge MV Wunma by two EMQ rescue helicopters.

February 2007 - emergency animal disease

An outbreak of an endemic bacterial disease, *Streptococcus iniae*, at a barramundi farm in the Hinchinbrook Channel Cardwell caused the death of approximately 50 tonnes of fish. The SDCC carefully monitored the situation in case a whole-of-government response was required to assist the DPI&F and EPA who worked with the owner to develop a collection and disposal plan.

March 2007 - tropical low

A tropical low off the central Queensland coast generated a TC Watch from Ayr to St Lawrence. Plans were put into place for the possible evacuation of 377 persons from Lady Elliot and Heron Islands however, the system moved out into the Coral Sea.

13 March 2007 - severe storm

A severe thunderstorm impacted Tara in south west Queensland the strong winds, heavy rain and hail caused substantial damage to a number of houses and the environment. Due to personal hardship being suffered by a number of residents, SDRA was activated.

March 2007 - TC Cyclone Odette

TC Odette (Category 1) formed in the Coral Sea off Mackay and started to track towards the coast before moving away and degenerating to a tropical low.

2 April 2007 - tsunami

Following a major underwater earthquake near the Solomon Islands, the Bureau issued warnings of a tsunami threat to eastern coastal and island areas. No destructive tsunami occurred however small rises in sea levels were recorded. The warnings attracted significant public and media attention along the eastern seaboard of the country.

June 2007 - northern and western Queensland flooding

Storm activity during the period 11–26 June 2007, caused localised flooding in the northern and western Queensland areas. As a result of the flooding, significant road damage was reported in 12 shires. Australian/state governments NDRA relief measures were activated for the restoration of public assets, counter disaster operations, disaster relief assistance scheme and the Association's Natural Disaster Relief Scheme.

June 2007 - New South Wales deployment

As a result of extensive storm damage and severe flooding in early June, three task forces were deployed to New South Wales in the Newcastle area to assist with clean up operations. A total of 295 personnel were deployed, comprising mainly SES volunteers and several EMQ staff.

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 and impacted the Gulf area again in February. This resulted in requests for the resupply of almost six tonnes of essential foods, to the following communities by charter aircraft:

Date	Destination	Cargo	Method	Kilograms
18 Jan	Burketown	Foodstuffs	Fixed Wing	1,937
31 Jan	Boulia, Bedourie, and isolated properties in the Bedourie area	Foodstuffs	Fixed and Rotary Wing	1,100
7 Feb	Burketown	Foodstuffs	Fixed Wing	2,570
Total:				5,607

Avian influenza - on-going

The SDCC has been receiving situation reports from the Australian government Department of Health and Ageing on the status of avian influenza since 29 January 2004. The SDCC continues to maintain a watching brief.

Nuclear Powered Warships

As part of the Australian government's agreement for visits by nuclear-powered warships of foreign allied countries, Queensland's disaster management system maintains plans to facilitate arrangements for radiation monitoring, evacuation and decontamination during visits by such vessels to the state's ports for the purposes of crew rest and recreation.

During 2006-2007 these preparatory arrangements were activated on three occasions. The USS Key West visited Brisbane from 21 to 28 July 2006. The USS Cheyenne visited Brisbane 12 to 18 June and 27 to 30 June 2007. Both vessels are Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines.

Weather warnings

Queensland has a high frequency of severe natural phenomena affecting communities throughout the State and the SDCC has a very close relationship with the Bureau.

During the period 2006-2007, 945 weather warnings were received from the Bureau, which required monitoring and notification to affected districts by the SDCC or State Group Duty Officer.

Warning Type	No.	
Gale	125	An additional 977 reports were received from the Bureau but generally required no action, or minimal action, as they were routine reports such as Coastal Waters Wind Warning, TC Outlook, TC Information Bulletin and Flood Summary.
Severe Thunderstorm	281	
Tropical Cyclone	80	
Tsunami	42	
Flood	286	
Severe Weather	131	

State Emergency Services

The SES is a vital part of Queensland's emergency management system and provides assistance to Queensland communities in times of disaster or emergency. SES groups are managed by EMQ, which works in partnership with local government to ensure communities are able to be appropriately assisted in times of need.

SES groups assist to protect persons or property from danger or potential danger in a disaster or emergency situation. They provide valuable assistance to the emergency services and assist communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or a disaster. Flood and storm response is a significant part of SES activities.

During the year Queensland's SES played a vital role in providing an operational response to the New South Wales SES during the severe storms and flooding in the Newcastle area. Approximately 277 volunteers from across Queensland's SES were deployed in three task forces for the duration of the event.

Disaster relief and recovery

Natural disaster relief arrangements

In Queensland the NDRA is administered by DES, through EMQ, the funding source being Australian and Queensland governments.

The state/Australian government NDRA are the prime mechanisms utilised by the Queensland government to provide post-disaster relief and recovery assistance to communities affected by any one or combination of the following natural disasters: cyclone, storm, flood, bushfire, earthquake, storm surge, tsunami, tornado, meteorite strike, and landslide (contingent upon another event occurring).

The NDRA provides for relief and recovery assistance in the areas of:

- » emergency contents replacement and building repair grants to affected eligible persons;
- » concessional home rebuilding loans to affected eligible persons;
- » concessional re-establishment loans to eligible small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations;
- » private debris clearing and eligible extraordinary disaster management costs incurred; and
- » state and local government essential infrastructure restoration.

The activation threshold for 2006-2007 was \$240,000. Local government triggers ranged from \$155,000 to \$1.55 million with a \$50,000 concessional trigger remaining in place for some eligible councils.

The disaster period for the completion of restoration works is two financial years after the end of the financial year in which the event occurred.

The NDRA provides for a state/Australian government cost-sharing formula. Under this formula for the 2006-2007 year, Queensland was required to meet initial NDRA expenditure of \$62.1 million. The next \$46.6 million was shared equally - 50% state and 50% Australian government. Expenditure in excess of \$108.7 million was shared 25% state and 75% Commonwealth.

The NDRA has delivered relief and recovery assistance totalling \$307.9 million to affected communities across Queensland for activated disaster events in 2006-2007. Of this total the Australian government's contribution was \$172.7 million. At the time of preparing this report the 2006-2007 NDRA financial statements are awaiting finalisation including certification by the Auditor General of Queensland.

New NDRA activations for 2006-2007

Event	2006/2007 NDRA Expenditure
Northern and Western Queensland - TC Nelson and flooding January to February 2007	\$1,031,686
South East Queensland - storms 16 December 2006	\$1,303,633
Hinchinbrook - storms and flooding 1 to 2 September 2006	\$nil to 30/06/06

NDRA activations continuing in 2006-2007

Event	2006/2007 NDRA Expenditure
North and Central Queensland - flooding 8 - 15 March 2006	\$nil to 30/06/06
TC Larry and TC Monica and associated flooding March - April 2006	\$278,330,547
Bowen Shire and Burdekin Shire - flooding 26 - 29 January 2006	\$nil to 30/06/06
Far North Queensland - storms and flooding 9 - 29 January 2006	\$1,600,791
Central and Southern Queensland - severe storms 26 November - 2 December 2005	\$1,475,533
Isis Shire and Biggenden Shire - bushfire 10 October 2005	\$nil to 30/06/06

NDRA activations closing during 2006-2007

Event	2006/2007 NDRA Expenditure
South East Queensland - flooding June 2005	\$2,989,648
South West Queensland - flooding June 2005	\$12,297,314
TC Ingrid and Far North Queensland - flooding March 2005	\$3,094,307
North Queensland - flooding from December 2004	\$5,763,246
South East Queensland - storms and flooding 5 - 8 November 2004	\$77,413

Note: As of November 2007 NDRA arrangements will be known as the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)

Post-disaster assessment

Conducted workshops with key stakeholders to ensure local knowledge captured from TC Larry and Monica is incorporated into future policy and planning.

DES and EMQ continue to work closely with the Bureau and GA in the development of a better understanding of events through post-disaster assessment and providing input into the development of post disaster assessment tools.

Future priorities

- » Implement the '132 500' national SES telephone number for emergency response to storms and floods (which is part of the Safeguarding Cyclone Communities initiative, 2006 government election commitment).
- » Work with key stakeholders to develop a rapid damage assessment plan to improve disaster responsiveness and ensure response and recovery efforts are targeted to those most in need.
- » Continue to review the State Disaster Management Plan in accordance with the SPF. This review will be informed by lessons from TC Larry and Monica.
- » Accelerate, where possible, the implementation of the Australian Tsunami Warning System project to enhance Queensland's awareness of, and capacity to respond to this event.
- » Deliver three external disaster management exercises to review and assess the readiness of the District Groups for a catastrophic event.
- » Support the Regional Organisation of Councils of Local Government to identify common community disaster management risks.
- » Continue to progress an online system for sharing, exchanging and retaining knowledge and information within the emergency management community.
- » Contribute to the development of a national incident management system, in accordance with a national strategy that meets the needs of local government when managing disasters.
- » Contribute to planning a design of a new state-of-the-art Integrated Communications and State Emergency Operations Centre at Kedron.
- » Establish additional ESUs during 2007-2008.
- » Training and Community Preparedness:
 - » continue to expand disaster management training programme to meet the needs of disaster management stakeholders. In particular, the EMQ School of Emergency Management to enhance the interaction between agencies with the development

of training to support inter-agency liaison officers; and

- » continue a focus on raising the preparedness of Queensland communities for cyclone, bushfire and floods through the development of community education materials targeting children and young people and persons of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Queensland Police Service

The QPS has continued to effectively exercise its support in providing Senior Police Officers as DDCs under the Act. Police enjoy the strong support of the community and provide strong leadership in times of major incident and disaster.

The 23 DDCs have, in accordance with the Act, regularly convened and chaired meetings of the District Groups. These senior police have also provided leadership and support for the Local Group within their districts.

The QPS also played an active part in providing input into the review of the disaster management arrangements in Queensland.

The QPS played an active role in a number of incidents including the tsunami alert in North Queensland in April 2007. Continual update of plans to facilitate the successful management of such incidents is being undertaken with the appointment of a Chief Superintendent to coordinate the QPS efforts in this regard.

Senior police officers were active in preparing the QPS for the possibility of an influenza pandemic. All requirements regarding the purchase and storage of personal protective equipment (PPE), to be used in time of a pandemic, were attended to. The QPS also worked on the development of strategies to achieve business continuity in the event of a pandemic and the operational plans and risk management strategies have been upgraded to take account of a pandemic outbreak.

A large number of police attended the first Cyclone Summit held in Cairns in December 2006. Senior police and operational officers attended the Summit and utilised the data gleaned from the Summit in their preparation and planning for subsequent cyclone and severe weather events.

Over the reporting year, the QPS was active in providing professional development for its members and has taken advantage of the courses provided by EMQ locally, and courses provided by EMA at locations such as Mount Macedon in Victoria.

Department of Public Works

Disaster research

At the request of the QTCCC, the department established a Technical Advisory Group to review the current Public Cyclone Shelter Design Guidelines. The advisory group concluded that public cyclone shelters in Queensland should be designed and constructed to resist wind loads and wind borne debris associated with wind gust speeds up to 306 km/h. Cyclones with wind gusts greater than 280 km/h are classified as severe Category 5 events.

A separate cost study of buildings suitable for use as public cyclone shelters (eg theatres and auditoriums) concluded that the additional cost to construct a building to the higher design standard is in the range of 10% to 20% of the normal building cost. This equates to an estimated additional building work cost of \$500-\$750/m² in provincial centres within Queensland's cyclonic region.

The Building Code of Australia states that buildings must resist wind loads determined in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1170.2. The standard defines the cyclonic region (Region C) in Queensland to be the 50 kilometre wide coastal strip and island communities north of latitude 25 (near Bundaberg). However, due to significant storm tide inundation threat, Hervey Bay is also included in Queensland's cyclonic region, along with the Gulf of Carpentaria and island communities.

Disaster risk assessment

A special Working Group has been established to develop a new guideline to the Act, entitled *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter*. The Working Group has representation from EMQ, EPA, Departments of Transport and Natural Resources and Water, as well as the Cairns City Council, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), GA and the Bureau. The Working Group is chaired by the Department of Public Works.

The objective of the guideline is to mitigate the adverse impacts of cyclones on existing and developing Queensland communities. The guideline presents a process which will identify:-

- » Community vulnerability to cyclones; eg quantifies community vulnerability to storm tide or structural failure including evacuation routes vulnerability to flooding and landslip.

- » Strategies including infrastructure development to reduce the vulnerability e.g. construction of a bicycle path and pedestrian bridge suitable as an evacuation route, and construction of public cyclone shelters in neighbouring communities.
- » Recommended standards, e.g. flood levels for evacuation routes and evacuation population to be sheltered in public cyclone shelters.
- » Associated implementation strategies.

Outcomes associated with the implementation of the Act guideline: *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Tropical Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter* will enable local governments to identify and quantify their community vulnerability, evacuation and shelter requirements. This information will allow the SDMC to advise the State Group on priorities associated with evacuation planning and public cyclone shelters for communities within Queensland's cyclone region.

Disaster mitigation

DPW commenced negotiations for the testing of generic building materials and construction systems to ensure that they are capable of meeting the revised public cyclone shelter design guidelines. The testing will be undertaken by the Cyclone Testing Station at the James Cook University in Townsville.

Disaster preparedness

Following the impacts of TC Larry on North Queensland in March 2006, the department undertook a detailed review of its disaster planning arrangements and has made a number of modifications including:

- » revision of all existing disaster plans and contact registers;
- » supplementation of stockpiles of disaster response materials held in areas likely to be impacted by cyclones;
- » reviewing the existing UHF radio communications network operated by QBuild serving Cairns and the surrounding area; and
- » development of a new process for co-ordinating QBuild support operations during the disaster response phase of an event.

DPW has established a new Disaster Preparedness Group within its Technology and Development Division. The relocation of the department's previous disaster management unit from within QBuild, the department's construction arm, into a division with a whole-of-department focus is to ensure the best level of preparedness and improve the co-ordination of the department's response and recovery capability

to any natural disaster, technological failure, animal/plant disease, pandemic influenza or terrorism. The group will also play an active role in developing and encouraging disaster mitigation and disaster risk reduction strategies.

DPW remains a key provider in support of disaster response and recovery operations.

Disaster response

The debriefing process associated with TC Larry identified a need to develop a robust logistics handling capability. A logistics capability would cater for the supply of materials, equipment and services to meet the emergent need of an impacted community, support emergency workers and facilitate the needs of longer-term recovery. As a result, EMQ and the DPW established a Logistics Review Group.

The Logistics Review Group is to develop doctrine and processes for a whole-of-government end-to-end logistics capability for use during a response to and recovery from a disaster event. The doctrine and processes must be adaptable for the full range of potential disasters and responsive for small to large demands of capability.

The Logistics Review Group has representation from EMQ, Queensland Transport, QPS and the Australian Defence Force. Consultation will also be undertaken with Q-Health, the DPI&F and the Department of Communities (DoC) as appropriate.

The Logistics Review Group will report to the SDCG.

Disaster relief and recovery

During 2006-2007, the DPW continued co-ordinating the restoration of government-operated assets damaged during TC Larry. In total, 91 state operated schools and a further 41 school residences required a range of repairs and included a number of rebuilds.

The restoration costs of state government -built assets as a result of TC Larry totalled \$10.43 million at 30 June 2007. The Department of Housing also sustained significant damage to built assets with a total of 916 homes damaged and restoration costs of \$1.92 million.

The following table indicates the costs of building restoration works performed on behalf of each impacted state government agency.

Agency	Costs (\$)
Department of Education, Training and the Arts	7,488,984
Department of Housing	1,920,000
Department of Emergency Services	404,139
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	242,334
Queensland Police Service	139,413
Queensland Health	60,918
Department of Communities	58,455
Department of Justice and Attorney General	33,933
Six other agencies <\$20k	80,137
Total:	\$10,428,313

DPW commenced discussions with the DoC in relation to undertaking a review of arrangements for the inspection of private residences. These inspections are for personal hardship and distress claims made under the NDRA.

During TC Larry QBuild undertook 677 private residence inspections and subsequent damage assessments on behalf of the DoC. The revised process will provide a more efficient and effective system for undertaking these inspections in the future.

Post-disaster assessment

The DPW performed a needs analysis of disaster management teams that can be deployed into disaster-impacted areas following an event. The work undertaken by the department included planning for the development of:

- » potential check lists for built infrastructure;
- » forward deployment arrangements;
- » the required skill sets of damage assessors;
- » a resource checklist to be provided to damage assessors on deployment;
- » training needs of damage assessors; and
- » a contact list of damage assessors (QBuild and Project Services personnel).

Future priorities

- » Finalising the State Disaster Management Guideline *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter*.

- » Based on the guidelines, assisting local governments in cyclone risk areas to determine their needs in respect to evacuation and shelter and prioritisation of those established needs by the SDMC on behalf of the State Group.
- » Presenting funding options to the government for the delivery of an infrastructure of public cyclone shelters.
- » Finalising a report and subsequent plan for the establishment of an end-to-end logistics capability.
- » Finalising revised arrangements for the inspection of residences on behalf of the DoC.
- » Finalising arrangements for the readiness of a team of departmental personnel to provide damage assessment post-disaster.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

During the reporting period, emergency management activities for the DPI&F focused on emerging risks associated with avian influenza and pandemic influenza, counter-terrorism, biosecurity and department with national and state plans.

Key outcomes included:

- » Continuing to build capacity to manage major emergencies relating to animal and plant disease outbreaks.
- » Tested key processes of the Avian Influenza Contingency Plan.
 - » Continued representation at the State Group and operational levels.
 - » Implementation of an automatic notification system that can effectively distribute emergency messages to multiple destinations through facsimile, SMS and e-mail.
 - » Assessed the effectiveness of the Government Asset Protection (GAP) Plans.
 - » Continued implementation of all-hazards framework, including an incidents management system.
 - » Continued to develop business continuity management planning in preparedness for pandemic human influenza outbreak.

Policy and Governance

- » Development of a draft DPI&F Emergency Management Strategic Policy Framework, which incorporates an all-hazards approach.

- » Continued representation on the Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee (QCTC) including implementation of the Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2007-2009.
- » Continued representation on the State Group and the SDCG.
- » Commenced development of a Cyclone Emergency Response Plan for North Queensland.

Disaster risk assessment

Included *'Response to major pest incursion and multiple general incursions, threatening impact value of Queensland's primary production'* as a strategic risk to be monitored and managed by the Senior Executive Team in 2006-2007.

Disaster preparedness

As part of the establishment of Biosecurity Queensland earlier this year, DPI&F identified the need for a single, integrated emergency response function with *common* systems, and processes, and an ever-improving team. This includes continually improving, testing and refining our processes and training so if an outbreak does occur, Queensland is ready. With these factors in mind, the specialist Biosecurity Queensland Control Centre has been established in Brisbane to manage Biosecurity Queensland's emergency response preparedness. This new Centre:

- » co-ordinates the operational aspects of emergency responses and manages the long term eradication activities on behalf of programmes such as the National Eradication Programmes for fire ants and electric ants;
- » undertook PPE training for response to avian influenza;
- » tested infected property exit and decontamination entry procedures in the Avian Influenza Contingency Plan; and
- » undertook activities in Exercise Cumpston.

Disaster response

Continued response to numerous plant disease outbreaks, streptococcus in barramundi, Asian Honey Bee incursion, Hendra virus, outbreak of fire ants in Northern Queensland and electric ants outbreak.

Disaster relief and recovery

Continued DPI&F's recovery assistance to:

- » Operation Farm Clear, in relation to the response to TC Larry.
- » An outbreak of sugarcane smut.

Future directions

- » Continued implementation of business continuity management planning for avian influenza and pandemic human influenza.
- » Continued monitoring and management of GAP.
- » Training in PPE.
- » Continue to provide input to the State Group, SDCG, SDMC, QCTC and the Shared Services Queensland Disaster Response Reference Group.
- » Continue to exchange emergency management information with peak industry liaison groups.
- » Continue to implement lessons learnt from emergency response activities and exercises.

Queensland Health

Under Queensland's disaster management arrangements Q-Health is the lead agency for pandemic influenza outbreak, biological disaster and radiological disaster.

Policy and Governance

Q-Health continued to effectively exercise its responsibilities as a lead agency in the disaster management arrangements in Queensland under the DM Act. During 2006-2007, Q-Health:

- » senior executives participating in all the State Group meetings and SDCG addressed in this report;
- » senior health personnel regularly participated in and contributed to the leadership of the 23 District Groups throughout the state in support of the Local Groups (in accordance with the DM Act);
- » co-chaired with DES the whole-of-government QPIT, established to progress pandemic planning through the implementation of the *Interim Queensland (Whole-of-Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan* and the *Queensland Government Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza*; and
- » actively participated in a review of the disaster management arrangements in Queensland, particularly in lead agency accountability area for biological, radiological and pandemic influenza disasters.

The Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC) continues to research and develop significant health

strategies and national capability in relation to disaster response and recovery situations. Q-Health, through the Chief Health Officer, ensures that the outcomes of the AHPC work are incorporated into the Queensland disaster management preparedness activities and programmes.

Disaster research

The AHPC continued to research and develop significant health strategies and national capability in relation to disaster response and recovery situations and in particular during this reporting period has been addressing:

- » pandemic influenza planning and development of the national health strategies to guide the development of the COAG *National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic* and the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza*;
- » mass casualty management planning in relation to the national capability for hospital surge capacity and the associated national aeromedical transport capability;
- » development and deployment protocols for state-based Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMATs); and
- » the review and development of disaster medicine and disaster management education for health professionals including major work in the production of a psychosocial field handbook for emergency responders in disaster situations

Disaster preparedness

Q-Health participated in a series of pandemic influenza workshops conducted throughout disaster districts to raise the level of awareness of pandemic influenza issues and facilitate the development of disaster district action plans. There is much more to do at this level of preparedness and this work will continue indefinitely.

In collaboration with the Australian government Department of Health and Ageing, Q-Health planned and conducted a full field deployment operation, Exercise Cumpston 06, over 16-19 October 2006. The exercise tested the capacity and capability of the Australian health response to a pandemic in accordance with the Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza. It also assessed surveillance and response policies and systems, decision-making structures, co-ordination mechanisms and the relationship between Australian government Department of Health and Ageing and other federal

and state agencies. The Queensland deployment exercise was conducted in partnership with DPC, EMQ, Brisbane and Logan District Groups and various health non-government organisations.

Q-Health will continue to provide a significant contribution to the national counter-terrorism plan and to build the associated response capability through the individual and collective expertise within its clinical, scientific and laboratory service networks. This contribution is returned to Queensland through the nationally agreed response protocols and service arrangements.

Within Q-Health, under the direction of the Chief Health Officer, a significant review of the State Health Disaster Plan and associated emergency management arrangements has commenced and will result in a new plan during 2007-2008, in support of the State Disaster Management Plan. The new State Health Disaster Plan will incorporate the contemporary emergency operations centre and incident management team concepts adopted throughout the disaster management community.

The State Health Disaster Plan will also incorporate the agency accountabilities in relation to the National Counter-terrorism Plan and associated Queensland Counter-terrorism Strategies.

Disaster response and recovery

During the reporting period Q-Health again responded human and material resources required by the SDCG, in adequate staff numbers and volume of material supplies to both support the initial emergency deployment response and to also sustain the longer-term community recovery phase of these emergency situations.

These responses have involved the full range of primary health care, acute hospital care, population (environmental and public) health, mental (psychosocial) health and the scientific and laboratory services.

Post disaster assessment

The on-going research and review of internal Q-Health disaster response and emergency management capability led by the department's Emergency Management Unit within the Division of the Chief Health Officer has incorporated where relevant, the key learnings from the TC Larry and the Cumpston 06 Exercise.

Future priorities

- » Finalisation of the State Health Disaster Plan incorporating a staff development training programme and a Q-Health disaster management exercise programme.
- » Establishment of the Queensland Health State Emergency Co-ordination Centre (SHECC).
- » Complete the review of disaster response capability across health operations and set an action plan for any identified and remaining response capability gaps.
- » Continue the preparedness for emergency response to a pandemic influenza event through further pandemic influenza workshops conducted with the District Groups.
- » Manage the review and updating of the disaster management arrangements in place to guide the emergency response and community recovery in the event of a biological and radiological disaster.

Department of Communities

Policy and Governance

The State Community Recovery Committee, comprising key government and non-government partners, supports the DoC to fulfil its functional lead agency responsibility for community recovery. Key priorities for the committee in 2006-2007 included the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to reflect agreed community recovery roles and responsibilities following a disaster. The roles and responsibilities were agreed in May 2007 with the Memorandum of Understanding formally executed by all partners in July 2007.

Disaster Preparedness

A Memorandum of Understanding has been finalised with government and non-government partners to ensure that all agencies have a shared and agreed understanding of each others community recovery roles and responsibilities.

State wide community recovery training for DoC staff continued to be a major focus in 2007. As at 30 June 2007, 50% of departmental staff had completed the department's *Introduction to Community Recovery* training course. The department is on track to reach its 85% training target by the end of September 2007.

DoC enhanced its regional community recovery service delivery capability and capacity through the creation of new Community Recovery positions. These positions play a key role in disaster district community recovery planning processes.

A DVD titled *A Call to Action – Community Recovery after a disaster* and a range of fact sheets have been developed to build community recovery awareness amongst government and non-government agencies. The DVD has been well received by regions and community recovery partner agencies.

The department participated in a range of major exercises in partnership with the DES aimed at testing and developing regional capability. This included Exercise Galvanise and Exercise Cumpston 06. Regional participation occurred in three EMQ disaster management exercises in Mackay, Townsville and Hervey Bay.

Reflecting the agreed roles in the memorandum of understanding, a revised District Disaster Community Recovery Plan Template was developed to guide the 2007 district planning process. These templates include specific planning around possible pandemic and terrorism issues. Completed district plans are due for submission to District Groups by end October 2007.

The DoC has been given functional responsibility for convening and chairing a social impact and recovery working group that reports to the Premier's Pandemic Planning Taskforce. An engagement plan was endorsed by EMQ, DPC and the State Community Recovery Committee as well as the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce.

Disaster Relief and Recovery

The DoC Communities responded to three storm events where community recovery services were required:

- » south east Queensland - hail affected suburbs of Brisbane (16 November 2006);
- » south east Queensland - Sunshine Coast received the greatest damage (15 December 2006); and
- » south west Queensland - mainly affected township of Tara (13 February 2007).

A total of 35 outreach visits were made to provide personal support services to affected people and five claims for financial assistance were paid.

The DoC continued to co-ordinate community recovery services for those affected by TC Larry through local, state and Australian government agencies as well as key non-government agencies. With its partner agencies, including the Building Co-ordination

Centre, the department provided services which included project-managing repairs to dwellings and case-managing the support needs of these clients, and providing financial assistance and access to psychological support.

The department operated One Stop Shops at Babinda, Innisfail and Malanda to offer access to integrated recovery services to affected communities. These services were complemented by continuing outreach activities across the affected region, and then consolidated in a coastal service in Innisfail and another on the Tablelands. Since TC Larry, the department has undertaken approximately 59,000 individual client contacts.

During the reporting year, the department provided a further \$0.18m to individuals and families to enable them to replace essential household items and \$2.8M for the repair of dwellings.

Post-Disaster Assessment

The recovery efforts and systems from TC Larry will be documented and available as a best practice model for future events and for the benefit of other states. Due date for completion of this work is early October 2007.

Future Priorities

- » Work has commenced on the development of a DoC *disaster recovery recording and reporting* database to support community recovery intake and the management of NDRA applications. It is expected that this tool will be developed for trialling in the 2007-2008 financial year.
- » The revision of procedures manuals for the DoC community recovery practises to reflect contemporary practice and the learnings from the Cyclone Larry Recovery Programme is a key priority for the 2007-2008 financial year.

Department of State Development

(now Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry)

Disaster research

The Department of State Development (DSD) undertook an evaluation of the Cyclone Larry Special Programme which was to assist business recovery planning to assess effectiveness of the programme. Findings demonstrated that the support received was

considered useful and valuable by clients. Industry sectors assisted included agriculture services providers and tourism-related businesses (retail, hospitality, accommodation and attractions) both of which are part of the two main industry sectors in the economy. Others were personal and business services and manufacturing.

DSD funded a Business Retention and Expansion Programme in Innisfail. The project resurveyed businesses originally surveyed in 2005, providing information on changes that had occurred and informing recovery planning. Many of the opportunities and issues identified were being addressed through projects in the Economic Recovery Strategy for the TC Larry-affected region.

Disaster risk assessment

Disaster management manuals incorporating risk management are being developed for State Development Centres to improve preparedness and optimise capacity to support business and industry following future disaster events.

Disaster mitigation

DSD was represented, and presented, at the 2007 Local Government Association Conference on disaster management and economic development. The presentation dealt with prevention and preparedness and risk assessment for business, industry and local government.

Disaster preparedness

- » A disaster resilience on-line planning tool was developed for release at the Cyclone Summit in December 2006. In the early part of 2007 the tools were promoted through radio and media advertising across all of the department's regions. The department also ran six risk management workshops in the TC Larry affected region, pre-2006/2007 cyclone season.
- » The department participated in the national pandemic influenza exercise Exercise Cumpston 06 and utilised the Exercise Stormcay scenario to test and refine its internal disaster management system.
- » As an active member of the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Taskforce the department contributed to the implementation of the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan through its activities in the Critical Infrastructure and Industry Preparedness Group, the Social and Community Recovery Group and the Public Information Group.

Disaster response

- » The department developed a comprehensive draft internal disaster management system to co-ordinate its response. The system design utilises the learnings from TC Larry.
- » The department placed its internal system on alert during the North Queensland flood response and supported the SDCG in response to questions and issues regarding food distribution.
- » Following the 2006 Indian Ocean tsunami alert earlier, the department developed guidelines for regional office preparation and response.

Disaster relief and recovery

The department continued to provide support to business, industry, local government and regional stakeholders in the TC Larry-affected region through the Cyclone Larry Special Programme until 31 December 2006. As at 30 June 2007, 278 applications were approved for Stage 1 (total of \$2,56M) and 43 applications approved for Stage 2 (total of \$1.38M).

DSD was the lead agency for the long term business and economic recovery of the region. The department applied a strategic directions consultation approach involving considerable business, industry and regional stakeholder consultation through two forums and more than 30 individual business, industry and regional stakeholder consultations. The input from the consultation was compiled into the Cyclone Larry Business and Economic Recovery Strategy. The strategy was endorsed by stakeholders at a forum on 15 September 2006 and on 4 December 2006 by Cabinet. The strategy embraced holistic recovery and comprised 87 projects and activities encompassing economic, social, environmental and infrastructure areas, including some iconic projects such as Ella Bay and the Ma:Mu Canopy walk.

By June 2007, 78 projects were well underway and 13 completed. Most projects and activities are longer term. Twenty-two additional projects and initiatives have also been commenced since the strategy to support economic renewal in the area. The department monitored the implementation of the strategy, and prepared an information submission for possible consideration by Cabinet.

The department assisted 101 displaced workers with training and job search through the Worker Assistance Programme, which sat within the then Department of Employment and Training. In December 2007 this programme was moved to the DSD.

For future use, the department has compiled two frameworks and checklists to guide the development of an industry recovery action plan and to compile a long-term regional economic recovery strategy in a disaster affected region. The framework incorporates guidelines for organising regional and industry stakeholder consultation and provides a proforma in which the plan and strategy can be constructed.

Post disaster assessment

The department participated in the Cyclone Summit in Cairns in December 2006, releasing its disaster resilience online planning tool at this event.

As a result of the Learnings from TC Larry and the outcomes of the Cyclone Summit held in December 2006 the department has focused strongly on improving its own disaster management system. This has included developing disaster management manuals for regional offices. In terms of the clients of the department, DSD has strongly promoted prevention and preparedness through marketing the online resilience planning tool.

Future priorities

Prevention and preparedness

- » Developing a pre-season prevention and preparedness alert campaign for business and industry.
- » Running an internal desktop exercise.
- » Participation in EMQ conducted exercises.

Response and recovery

Collaborating with other agencies in the development of whole-of-government tools and information through the State Community Recovery Committee.

Governance

Improving network and communication links for DSD at the regional level within the Queensland disaster management system.

Queensland Transport

The Queensland Transport (Transport) portfolio provided support to lead agencies for disaster planning and operations across the state during 2006-2007 and continued to expand its disaster preparedness capabilities through planning, training and exercise initiatives.

As a result of flooding in the northern and central regions of the state the Transport portfolio disaster management arrangements were activated in early 2007. The portfolio supported lead agencies by moving disaster relief resources and providing transport engineering and infrastructure advice.

As a Member of the State Group, the Director-General represents the Transport Portfolio, which incorporates Maritime Safety Queensland, the Department of Main Roads and Queensland Rail.

Disaster research

The Transport portfolio researches infrastructure resilience and disaster planning and response best practice and experiences, to inform disaster management activities.

Disaster risk assessment

All Transport portfolio disaster management activities are risk assessed in accordance with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4360:2004.

Disaster mitigation

The Transport portfolio:

- » Participates in several inter-agency disaster mitigation committees, such as the SDMC.
- » Undertakes disaster mitigation activities in relation to transport infrastructure hardening. Infrastructure developments that reflect disaster considerations include the new Houghton Highway Bridge, which is to be built on an eastern alignment approximately four metres higher than the existing Houghton Highway Bridge, to withstand a storm surge that could potentially be experienced in severe storm events.

Disaster preparedness

The Transport portfolio:

- » consistently undertakes disaster management planning, training and exercises to confirm and test disaster arrangements and capabilities;
- » is represented on inter-agency disaster preparedness committees, such as the SDCG, to enhance co-operative whole-of-government disaster preparedness; and
- » engaged with lead agencies and the Standstill Zone Management Group to continue preparedness activities for outbreaks of foot-

and-mouth disease and other emergency animal disaster response arrangements.

Through the portfolio:

- » agencies incorporated preparedness arrangements for a pandemic human influenza outbreak into their business continuity planning process;
- » training of Transport portfolio disaster management liaison officers was conducted in November-December 2006;
- » specialist maritime pollution-response training and oil spill response exercises were held across the state to enhance first responders skills; and
- » Maritime pollution response arrangements were enhanced by the endorsement of a Memorandum of Understanding between Maritime Safety Queensland and the QFRS in response to ship-sourced chemical spills. The agreement, which was signed in February 2007, formalises co-operative pollution response arrangements between both agencies. Upgrades were made to the Maritime Safety Queensland fleet and first-strike response equipment to extend the maritime incident response capabilities.

Disaster response

The Transport portfolio:

- » supported EMQ the SDCC and several activated District Groups in disaster response operations conducted as a result of flooding in early 2007 in central and north Queensland and TC Nelson in the Gulf.
- » arranged transport services for delivery of food, fuel and disaster response supplies to people and communities isolated by flooding, and provided advice on road and rail access, closures and reduced capacities. The portfolio also consulted with EMQ and several District Groups on action plans for community evacuations.
- » A team of 11 personnel from Maritime Safety Queensland participated in a national response to the grounding of the bulk coal carrier *Pasha Bulker* at Newcastle in June 2007.

Disaster relief and recovery

The agency supports lead agencies in disaster relief and recovery. During 2006-2007, the Transport portfolio was not activated for disaster relief or recovery activities.

Post-disaster assessment

Undertook a review of its disaster management responsibilities and capabilities to ensure learnings from the TC Larry response and recovery experience were incorporated into portfolio policy and practice.

Future priorities

Disaster preparedness for agencies in the Transport portfolio, including disaster planning, training and exercising, is a key priority for the coming year.

Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation

Disaster relief and recovery

In Queensland, the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR) administers on behalf of Queensland's local government the NDRA in conjunction with the Australian government. This programme provides financial support for local governments to restore public assets damaged by natural disaster events. During 2006-2007 the department assisted councils with applications and provided relief funding of more than \$78 million.

Natural disaster events included flooding resulting from TC Nelson, the south east Queensland storms experienced in December 2006 and the Hinchinbrook storms and flooding experienced in September 2006. The major funding for 2006-2007 (\$63 million) went to North Queensland local governments for the continued recovery programme from TC Larry and Monica.

DLGPSR provided local governments in North Queensland with access to financial aid for the restoration of heritage-listed properties damaged by TC Larry. Funding covered the 'gap' costs anticipated between the insurance coverage and actual repair costs. In June and July 2006, the former Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, wrote to the Cairns City Council and Eacham, Herberton and Johnstone Shire Councils seeking assistance in implementing the funding in collaboration with the property owners. Funding of over \$600,000 was offered to restore the property to pre-disaster standard, and was allocated from the department's Rural Living Infrastructure Programme.

Environmental Protection Agency

Disaster mitigation

Local Government Storm Tide Mapping Project

EPA provided support to DES, the lead agency for this project, in undertaking the Local Government Storm Tide Mapping Project and in the production of storm tide inundation maps for six Queensland coastal local governments in for use in disaster management and regional coastal management plans.

Public Evacuation and Cyclone Shelter Guidelines

The EPA supported lead agency DPW in the review of the design guidelines for public evacuation and cyclone shelter by participating in the QTCCC's *Cyclone Shelter Review Workshop*.

Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme

Under the NDMP, EPA received funding to conduct the following projects:

Queensland storm tide studies data compilation project

Commencement of a review of all completed storm tide studies in Queensland. The aim of this review was to compile all available water level return period statistics and inundation mapping for Queensland into a consolidated information resource.

Erosion hazard mapping - a pilot

Quantitatively assess long-term erosion threats and identified specific erosion hazards at 25 sites along the Queensland coastline using the EPA's historical coastal aerial photography collection and GIS analysis.

Mornington Island storm tide warning system

Installation of a new storm tide measurement facility at Mornington Island in the 2006-2007 cyclone season. This facility allows officers from EPA, DES and the Bureau to monitor the magnitude of a storm tide event.

Tropical cyclone storm tide risk

Storm tide advisors deployed to the SDCC during the threat of TC Nelson (February 2007) to assist in assessing the potential impacts on coastal communities from ocean flooding by storm surge.

Disaster preparedness

Emergency Response Exercises and Training

- » EPA undertook Incident Control Systems training throughout the state.
- » Training was completed by 34 EPA employees from Parks, Conservation Services and Environmental Operations divisions.

As part of the 2006-2007 storm season education and awareness campaign, the EPA representatives supported EMQ and the Bureau. The education and awareness programme was conducted at Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Caloundra and at the Gold Coast.

The EPA provided advice and technical expertise to the DES during emergency response exercises, including the provision of technical advice for a Cairns storm tide simulation presented to the State Group in June 2007.

Disaster response

Solomon Islands tsunami 2 April 2007

There are no tsunami-specific monitoring sites in Queensland waters however, the EPA operates a storm tide system comprising 23 tide gauges along the Queensland coastline. This allows real-time access to tide data via the public telephone network during events to monitor the effects of coastal flooding from tidal surges and tsunamis.

The primary purpose of the agency's storm tide network is to record the magnitude of storm tide events. However, this was adjusted to record changes in water-levels prior to the expected arrival of the 2007 Solomon Island tsunami along the Queensland coastline.

Through its network of storm tide gauges, the EPA recorded the tsunami wave at its gauges at Clump Point (0.3m) and Rosslyn Bay (0.5m).

Logan fuel spill

On 31 May 2007 a B-double truck transporting 51,700 litres of unleaded fuel and diesel overturned on the Beenleigh-Redland Bay resulting in the loss of the majority of the fuel load. On the night of the incident the EPA was notified via the EPA Pollution Hotline and responded immediately and included:

- » The EPA's State Environmental Scientific Co-ordinator (ESC) providing advice to the incident controller on actions to take to minimise environmental impacts and the ESC and Regional Director were available to the incident commander during the night.
- » The EPA's Chief Scientific Advisor was on site and provided expert advice to the crews on the most appropriate methods of clean-up and disposal whilst minimising any further impact to the environment.
- » Water heavily contaminated by fuel was removed and taken to the Caltex refinery for reprocessing with residual contaminated water treated on site through an oil/water separator prior to removal of the concentrated fuel.
- » Soil contaminated by the fuel was removed and taken to the landfill operated by Logan City Council for bioremediation prior to disposal.

The EPA will participate in an inter-agency debrief to be held 4 July 2007.

Department of Employment and Industrial Relations

(formerly the Department of Employment and Training)

Policy and Governance

- » Formal sign-off given for the Neville Bonner Building Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan 2007-2008 in May 2007.
- » Completion of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (DEIR) Pandemic Influenza Action Plan.

Disaster risk assessment

In accordance with the department's risk management policy, disaster recovery and business continuity plans are to be reviewed and tested once per year. During the reporting period, this exercise was undertaken in April 2007.

Disaster preparedness

- » Training sessions were conducted for staff on a possible influenza pandemic.
- » A Business Risk Impact Analysis was conducted utilising a 'disaster scenario test' (a flooding of the Neville Bonner Building to 1974 levels was the scenario tested). A response to this scenario test was compiled, complete with outcomes and learnings. Test results were compiled and submitted to the department's legal and risk management services branch. This process confirmed business-critical services that would need to be maintained in the event of a disaster.
- » DEIR tested aspects of the agency's Pandemic Influenza Action Plan, including a scenario of multiple staff members attempting to log in to the departmental system from home. Limitations for information technology access were identified and reported.
- » The department's Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity support team were reconstituted with refresher training conducted on expectations of team members. After-hours contact details for all staff in central office were updated.

Disaster relief and recovery

- » Under the Cyclone Larry Employment Assistance Package \$4.3 Million was committed during 2006-2007 to assist workers displaced as a result of TC Larry to find short term employment and to assist in the recovery of the agricultural industry.
- » Information provision regarding workplace health and safety (WHS) hazards (for example asbestos exposure) to obligation holders and members of the public in relation to TC Larry.

Queensland Pandemic Influenza Task Force

In October 2005 at the request of the Premier, the State Group created the Queensland Pandemic Influenza Task Force to progress planning for a possible influenza pandemic. The State Group determined core group, comprising functional agency representatives, was to support the task force in developing a whole-of-government plan.

The core group comprised members seconded from DES, Q-Health), DoC and DPW. With support from DPI&F it developed an Interim Queensland (Whole-of-Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan. In developing the plan, the core group consulted with local governments, disaster managers and key stakeholders across Queensland.

Since October 2005, the multi-agency QPIT continued to progress planning for a possible pandemic influenza in Queensland through the implementation of the *Interim Queensland (Whole-of-Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan*.

In October 2006, the Premier of Queensland publicly launched the *Queensland Government Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza* and a set of business continuity planning notes for Queensland businesses and industries. The *Interim Queensland (Whole-of-Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan* and the *Queensland Government Communications Strategy* were also published and distributed.

QPIT established a number of working groups to address the strategic level pandemic planning priorities for Queensland in 2007. These included:

- » government and disaster management preparedness;
- » legislation;
- » border control and quarantine;
- » industry preparedness;
- » social and community issues;
- » communication and public information arrangements;
- » health; and
- » financial and economic issues.

In February 2007, the State Group requested all government agencies to contribute to the on-going work of QPIT. The agency contributions (totalling either \$20,833 or \$30,035 an agency) funded a team of four AO7 project officers to specifically address government and disaster management preparedness, border control and quarantine, health and social and community issues.

During the reporting period, a series of pandemic influenza workshops were run throughout Queensland regions to raise the level of awareness of pandemic influenza issues and facilitate the development of disaster district action plans.

Queensland planning continues to complement the *COAG National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic* and the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza*.

Exercise Cumpston 06

In October 2006 Queensland participated in Exercise Cumpston 06, a national pandemic influenza exercise. Queensland played a major role in the exercise hosting the five live operational deployments and activities. Although the aim of the exercise was to exercise and

validate the capacity and capability of the Australian health system to prevent, detect and respond to a pandemic, it also exercised governance aspects of the National Action Plan for a Human Influenza Pandemic and emergency management plans of state and territories.

The exercise strengthened Australia's and, in turn Queensland's, preparation for the health response to an influenza pandemic. The Exercise Cumpston 06 Report outlines a number of key recommendations which will guide future pandemic influenza planning and preparation.

Further issues with non-health specific preparedness and issues relating to response over a prolonged period will be addressed in an exercise currently being planned for 2008.

Disaster Management Alliance

The Disaster Management Alliance (DM Alliance) is a formal partnership between DES and the LGAQ, representing Queensland local councils. The objective of the DM Alliance is to increase the disaster management capacity and capability at the local level. This is achieved through the establishment of a framework to enhance collaboration and co-ordination between all levels of government within the state to ensure communities benefit from appropriate disaster management planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery at the local level.

The DM Alliance Board oversees the activities of the project, provides direction to the Project Officer and also considers broader disaster management issues relating to local government. During 2006-2007, the DM Alliance Board met three times.

Board Members are:

- » Director General, Department of Emergency Services (Chair*)
- » Executive Director, Emergency Management Queensland, DES
- » Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Executive Services, DES
- » Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ
- » Director Policy and Representation, LGAQ
- » Manager Roads, Transport and Infrastructure, LGAQ
- » DM Alliance Project Officer (Secretariat)

* *The position of Chair of the DM Alliance rotates on an annual basis between LGAQ and DES.*

Key achievements:

- » **Elected Members Guide to Disaster Management**
 Status: Delivered August 2006
 Outcomes: Elected council officials with a better understanding and a commitment to ensuring appropriate disaster management planning in their council.
- » **Pandemic Influenza Planning Guide for Local Governments**
 Status: Delivered August 2006
 Outcomes: Better-prepared councils with a stronger capacity to maintain essential services during a pandemic event.
- » **Children and Young Persons Disaster Management Resources**
 Status: Delivered September 2007
 Outcomes: Two innovative resources for disaster managers to effectively engage with children and young people in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
- » **LGAQ Annual Conference: Disaster Planning, a 'how to' workshop**
 Status: Delivered August 2007
 Outcome: Engaged and better prepared councils with more skills to undertake local disaster management planning in their local community.

In addition, the DM Alliance responded to a number of requests from the state for assistance including:

- » **State Community Recovery Plan:**
 Through the DM Alliance, representation advice and support was provided to the DoC in the development of the State Community Recovery Plan.
- » **Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Cyclones Guidelines:**
 The DM Alliance was an active participant in the development of these guidelines.

Future priorities:

- » The DM Alliance will continue to focus on building the capability and capacity of councils in the next year. Particular focus will be given to the needs of those councils affected by amalgamations to ensure development of appropriate plans, arrangements and structures to meet the local disaster management needs of the community.
- » **Incorporating Disaster Management into Local Government Strategic Plans -** development and distribution of this new local government planning guideline will assist councils in developing systems and structures to ensure disaster management is incorporated into the mainstream of council corporate, strategic and governance arrangements.
- » The continuation of the DM Alliance beyond June 2008 will also be a priority. The existing tripartite funding between the Australian and Queensland governments and the LGAQ will be reviewed and cooperative options canvassed to ensure continuation of this project.

Further information: Telephone 3000 2222
 or e-mail enquiries@lgaq.asn.au.

Glossary

Elements of the Strategic Policy Framework

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

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

Further information

Further information may be obtained through the following web sites:

- » **Disaster Management Act 2003**
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2003/03AC091.pdf>
- » **Disaster management arrangements in Queensland**
www.disaster.qld.gov.au and www.emergency.qld.gov.au
- » **Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework**
www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications
- » **Emergency Management Australia**
<http://www.ema.gov.au/>
- » **Emergency Management Queensland**
<http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/>
- » **Emergency Service Units**
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/esu
- » **Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements**
[http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_\(NDRRA\)](http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_(NDRRA))
- » **State Disaster Management Group Annual Reports**
<http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/>
- » **State Emergency Services**
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses
- » **The Final Report of the Operation Recovery Task Force – TC Larry**
http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/library/pdf/cyclone_larry_final_report/1.Final_Cyclone_Larry_Report.pdf

Acronyms used in this report

AEMC	Australian Emergency Management Committee
AHPC	Australian Health Protection Committee
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation
ATWG	Australian Tsunami Working Group
AUSMATs	Australian Medical Assistance Teams
BMP	Bushfire Mitigation Programme
CBD	central business district
CHEM	Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DCC	District Co-ordination Centre
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
District Group	District Disaster Management Group
District Groups	District Disaster Management Groups
DEIR	Department Employment and Industrial Relations
DES	Department of Emergency Services
DGSM Act	Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001
DLGPSR	Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation
DM Alliance	Disaster Management Alliance
DoC	Department of Communities
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DPI&F	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
DPW	Department of Public Works
DSD	Department of State Development
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESC	Environmental Scientific Co-ordinator
ESUs	Emergency Service Units
GA	Geoscience Australia
GAP	Government Asset Protection
HazMat	Hazardous Materials
ITEM	Introduction to Tsunami for Emergency Managers
LDGL	Large Dangerous Goods Locations
Local Group	Local Disaster Management Group
Local Groups	Local Disaster Management Groups

LGAQ	Local Government Association Queensland
LGS	Local Grants Scheme
NCTC	National Counter-Terrorism Committee
NDMP	Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme
NDRA	Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements
NDRMSP	Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Programme
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NEMCC	National Emergency Management Co-ordination Centre
NEVSF	National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund
NFEWC	National Forum for Emergency Warnings for the Community
ORTF	Operation Recovery Task Force
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QCESA	Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy
QCTC	Queensland Counter-Terrorism Committee
QFRS	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
Q-Health	Queensland Health
QPIT	Queensland Pandemic Influenza Task Force
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QTCCC	Queensland Tropical Cyclone Co-ordination Committee
ROCs	Regional Organisations of Councils
SDCC	State Disaster Co-ordination Centre
SDCG	State Disaster Co-ordination Group
SDMC	State Disaster Mitigation Committee
SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
SES	State Emergency Service
SHECC	Queensland Health State Emergency Co-ordination Centre
SPF	Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework
State Group	State Disaster Management Group
TC	Tropical Cyclone
the Act	Disaster Management Act 2003
the Bureau	Bureau of Meteorology
Transport	Queensland Transport
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
XO	Executive Officer



Queensland Government
State Disaster Management Group