



Media release

The Honourable Jack Dempsey MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Framework sparks new era of confidence in disaster management

Queensland families will be safer as the State enters a new era of disaster management excellence through the introduction of an innovative assurance framework.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Jack Dempsey joined Inspector-General Emergency Management Iain MacKenzie in Yeppoon today to launch the Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) and announce a review of cyclone shelters.

Minister Dempsey said the EMAF would establish a new standard for disaster management in Queensland and create greater public and government confidence in arrangements across the State.

“The framework is a cornerstone in the revitalisation of disaster management in Queensland,” Minister Dempsey said.

“This innovative framework will provide the catalyst for a more consistent approach among agencies to disaster management in the state. But above all, it will mean that Queensland families and anyone who is caught in a disaster will be safer.

“It will also see closer working relationships, a reduction in red tape and improved coordination in disaster and emergency response.

“I am confident the framework will provide the platform on which we can together take disaster and emergency management to the next level of excellence in Queensland.”

Mr MacKenzie said the framework, which was developed in close consultation with stakeholders from across the disaster management sector, is designed to clearly identify areas of responsibility and ensure agencies, groups and individuals are able to deal with disasters effectively and ensure the requirements were relevant for both large and small communities.

“A good example is in the area of public warnings, where clearly it is important in any local government area in Queensland to be able to warn the community of an impending event quickly and effectively,” Mr MacKenzie said.

“If you consider Brisbane for example with more than one million residents and a huge number of homes, obviously it requires an array of technology-driven channels to urgently warn residents, including telephone-based warnings, social media, emails and the use of mainstream media.

“If we then consider some of the smaller towns with populations of around 100 and a small number of homes, the same equally effective outcome could be reached simply by door knocking.

“Our job under the framework is to make sure important elements can be achieved to a high, consistent standard across the State, irrespective of method or size of the community, to provide surety and confidence in disaster management arrangements.”

Key aspects of disaster management arrangements in Queensland will be strategically reviewed over the coming months by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management.



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The inaugural reviews will focus on sheltering arrangements for cyclones and storm surges; the capability of local governments to issue emergency warnings; and how effectively State agencies integrate and participate at the local level.

Minister Dempsey announced the reviews today during an inspection of the Yeppoon Cyclone Shelter.

“Queensland is leading the nation in the revitalisation of disaster management and these reviews are part of a broader program of activities designed to ensure people in this great state enjoy the best possible safety arrangements,” Minister Dempsey said.

“We need to ensure that the facilities and arrangements we have in place across the State - be it in Brisbane, Kowanyama or Yeppoon - are of a consistently high standard.”

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