

2 June, 2015

CALLIDE CREEK FLOOD REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING

Findings arising from an independent review into the flooding of Callide Creek during Tropical Cyclone Marcia will be outlined at a public meeting in Biloela on Friday.

The Inspector-General Emergency Management Iain MacKenzie will host a public meeting at the Biloela Anzac Memorial Club at 6.30pm on 5 June to provide detail on the review findings and recommendations and answer public questions relating to the report.

Mr MacKenzie was tasked with the review after Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk met with Callide Valley residents affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia and associated flooding in February.

The report is due to be handed to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Jo-Ann Miller this week.

The review will report on:

- The impact to the community of the Callide Valley from the flooding event on Friday 20 February 2015
- The operation of the Callide Dam in the lead-up to and during the event, including:
 - whether recommendations from the report on the “Review of Callide Dam Gate Operations in the January 2013 Flood Event” were implemented, and did, or would have if implemented, alter the impact to the community
 - the application of the Emergency Action Plan including integration with relevant disaster management plans
 - whether the operating specifications of the Callide Dam at the time of the event were reasonable
- Disaster management arrangements, specifically:
 - risk assessment and hazard mitigation strategies

- disaster management planning and disaster operations, including warnings
- engagement and communications, including with the community
- Performance of critical telecommunications infrastructure in the event.

As part of the review, independent experts were engaged to undertake an independent hydrological assessment relating to rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Marcia in the Callide Valley and any effect operations of the Callide Dam had on flooding.

In addition, a market research company was engaged to survey 406 Callide Valley residents on a range of topics including event impacts, warnings, public information, and telecommunications.

Mr MacKenzie said the report had sought to answer as many questions as possible relating to the 20 February event and improve disaster management arrangements for residents in the Callide Valley.

“I am confident that if the findings and recommendations in my report are considered and implemented, disaster management arrangements and outcomes for all people in the Callide Valley in future will be greatly improved,” Mr MacKenzie said.

The 5 June meeting fulfils an earlier public commitment by Mr MacKenzie to return to Biloela as quickly as possible after the release of the report to deliver its findings and recommendations to residents.