

7 April, 2015

400 CALLIDE RESIDENTS TO BE SURVEYED AS PART OF FLOOD REVIEW

An independent research company has been engaged to interview up to 400 Banana Shire residents as part of a review into the Callide Creek flood.

Inspector-General Emergency Management Iain MacKenzie said Q&A Market Research would undertake between 300-400 telephone-based interviews of residents from areas across relevant sections of the shire including Jambin, Thangool, Dululu, and Biloela.

The interviews, which will begin on April 13 and be undertaken over a two week period, will cover topics including event impacts, warnings, public information, and telecommunications.

Data from the confidential telephone surveys will provide important information as part of the formal review into the February flooding of Callide Creek.

“I have had the opportunity to speak with quite a number of affected residents and inspect many properties during my visits to the shire over recent weeks,” Mr MacKenzie said.

“Being able to personally inspect properties, homes, creeks and infrastructure and get first-hand accounts of what occurred has been invaluable in gaining a greater understanding of the context and issues surrounding the event.

“The information we obtain from this extensive telephone survey will further assist in allowing my office to piece together details surrounding this event and provide clarity on what potentially can be done to ensure there are improved outcomes in future.”

The telephone survey is being undertaken in tandem with an independent hydrological assessment of rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Marcia in the Callide Valley and any effect operations of the Callide Dam had on associated flooding.

The Terms of Reference for the hydrological assessment for the consulting firm include:

1. An assessment of the impact of discharges from Callide Dam on the overall flooding in the Callide Valley, including the impacts on Biloela, Jambin and Goovigen townships within the Valley.
2. An assessment of whether SunWater operated Callide Dam in accordance with the relevant dam operating procedures and specifications, and the relevant aspects of the Callide Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP), and
3. An assessment of the possible flooding impacts on communities downstream of the dam if different dam operation rules and specifications were adopted, with the aim of providing a greater degree of flood mitigation.

Mr MacKenzie said the consulting firm was well advanced in collecting information for the assessment and findings would be a cornerstone of the final report.

The overall review is scheduled to be delivered to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Jo-Ann Miller in late May.

The report will consider:

- 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
- Disaster management arrangements
- Performance of critical telecommunications infrastructure in the event.

Mr MacKenzie said the opportunity to make public submissions would remain open until April 17 and urged residents to contribute to the review.

“This review is about getting to the facts of the matter and simply, the more detail and information we have, the better placed we are to make informed comment on the event and actions that can be recommended to improve outcomes in the future,” he said.

Information surrounding how to lodge a public submission is available on the Inspector-General Emergency Management website at www.igem.qld.gov.au.