



IGEM *Connect*

Inspector-General Emergency Management

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Welcome to the latest edition of *IGEM Connect*.

Certainly, 2018 has proven to be a very significant year in the disaster management sphere.

At Federal, State and local levels, we have seen a number of key initiatives, actions and doctrine either developed, renewed or progressed over the course of the calendar year.

Notable among these has been the release of the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2018 (SDMP), which establishes the framework, arrangements and practices that enable disaster management in Queensland.

I was particularly pleased to see three key volumes of work from my Office enshrined in the 2018 Plan – the Lessons Management Program, Assurance, and the Disaster Management Research Framework.

Each of these are essential components of the State Government’s vision to more effectively prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from disasters.

I have noted previously in *IGEM Connect* the importance of a Lessons Management Program to enable the disaster management sector to make sense of observations, co-design improvement strategies and leverage innovative solutions and ideas to grow capability. In close consultation with the sector, we are making significant progress in developing this program.

Central to providing assurance to the State Government that the best possible disaster management arrangements are in place for the benefit of all Queenslanders has been the development of the Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) including the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland. We are currently refreshing the EMAF in close collaboration with stakeholders and hope to finalise this work early in the new calendar year.

And our third key volume of emerging work has been the development of the Research Framework inclusive of the development of a guiding Research Advisory Panel comprising key disaster management representatives from across State and local governments and the tertiary sector. This framework will drive targeted disaster management research at the coalface, greater collaboration between agencies practitioners and researchers, and ultimately lead to a highly improved evidence-base for decision making and planning.

I will provide brief updates on each of these components later in this edition.

I am encouraged by the progress made across the disaster management sector in 2018 and look forward to working collaboratively with you in 2019.

Capability Review for Mount Isa Update

The Mount Isa District Capability Review is progressing well with initial on-the-ground engagement completed for all nine local disaster management groups, from Diamantina in the south to Mornington Island in the north, and the Mount Isa District Disaster Management Group.

The Mount Isa District Capability Review follows similar reviews in Townsville and Mackay and a pilot in Warwick, with groups assessed on their ability to deliver effective disaster management outcomes, measured against the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

The review will focus on the Mount Isa District Disaster Management Group and local disaster management groups in Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomagee, McKinlay, Mount Isa, and Mornington Island.

The Mount Isa review is particularly challenging as the district covers more than 21% of Queensland. Its geography, remoteness, risks, and the resilience of its communities set it in a different context than some other districts in Queensland. Accordingly, our face-to-face engagement has been particularly important in terms of better understanding the nature of issues and plans specific to the region.

Consistent with previous reviews, the capability review does not make an assessment on past performance. Rather, it focuses on strength and development areas to match the anticipated future risk environment, specifically relating to the Mount Isa Disaster District.

An integrated improvement strategy will be developed as part of the capability review.

My Office intends to finalise the review after the 2018-19 wet season.



Review team flying from Burketown to Mornington Island

GovHack 2018 Winner



Winner of IGE's 2018 Community Disaster Challenge, Year 9 student Lachlan Brown representing "The Capricorn Four".

An interactive educational app that increases community resilience has won this year's GovHack Challenge.

Developed by a Central Queensland group called "The Capricorn Four", the "Smart Ways to Live App" highlights strategies and information utilising modern technology that connects young people between the ages of 10 and 12 to educational disaster management content that has real-life application.

The app is the latest in a series of innovative products developed through the GovHack program.

GovHack is an annual event which brings application developers and data providers together in competition to find innovative ways to use and promote government data.

My office has jointly sponsored the challenge for a number of years and this year posed the question to developers – [“How might we understand what makes communities strong in disasters?”](#) Participants from 10 places around the State were eligible to put up answers. The Office saw a range of different entries/approaches to the challenge which made judging a challenge in itself. “The Capricorn Four” was closely followed by team “oghacks” Responder idea, that focussed on building community resilience through allowing people to connect to others.



Snapshot of “Smart ways to live” instruction and educational concept



Young Sun representing team “oghacks” collects a well-deserved Honourable Mention from Assistant Director-General Dallas Stower (Dept. Housing & Public Works) and IGEM’s Mike Shapland

EMAF Refresh update

I have been highly encouraged by the extent of stakeholder interest and involvement with the refresh of the Emergency Management Assurance Framework.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this project, my Office is seeking to refresh the Framework to ensure it remains contemporary; it enhances supporting tools such as the Prioritisation Tool; highlights gaps and amendments from lessons identified; and refreshes the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

To achieve this, we established a number of technical working groups to provide advice on specific elements of the Framework, with each technical working group comprising a broad range of representatives and content experts from State agencies, local government, government owned corporations, not-for-profit and non-government organisations.

Workshops involving all technical working groups were undertaken, along with further consultation involving content experts from across the State and all tiers of government and NGO sector. Involving approximately 100 stakeholders, this consultation provided invaluable input and technical expertise to ensure the Standard and the Framework remain relevant and accessible for the sector.

Following the workshops and consultation, the project team analysed, incorporated and tested your feedback into a draft of the refreshed EMAF and Standard for Disaster Management. Your input has shaped and influenced what we believe will be a much easier to understand and apply version of the EMAF and the Standard.

We have since disseminated this updated draft to sector stakeholders for a final review and hope to have a final version approved and available within the first quarter of 2019.

Again, my personal thanks to the great number of you who have contributed to the development of the refreshed framework.

Disaster Management Plan Assessments

My Office has now received all disaster management plan self-assessments and has begun the process of writing a discussion paper. The paper not only makes an assessment about this year's results but is written with the EMAF refresh in mind. It looks back over the last four years of this process at what we can conclude about changes in the effectiveness of plans.

A consultation draft will be circulated among stakeholders by 14 December 2018, in the interim this year's self-assessment results can now be viewed in the Collaboration Zone.

And for any new readers of *IGEM Connect*, we have introduced a new perspective on disaster management plan assessments this year through the Analysis Dashboard.

The Analysis Dashboard combines the last three years of disaster management plan self-assessment results with population, local government revenue, and disaster activation data. It visualises this information, making it easier for us to identify trends in disaster management plan assessments over time.

You can access the Analysis Dashboard online 9am to 5pm every day, via the [IGEM Collaboration Zone](#).

Lessons Management Program

The Lessons Management Program (LMP) is moving ahead strongly with the third of four planned workshops completed last month.

The workshops are part of a broader comprehensive suite of engagement activities, which have already included presentations to Executive Officers, Emergency Management Coordinators, and Disaster Management Officers.

Regular readers of *IGEM Connect* would be aware that my Office's review of arrangements associated with Tropical Cyclone Debbie last year identified the need for a sustainable improvement program for the disaster management sector in Queensland.

In response to the review's recommendations, we were tasked by the Government with implementing a system-wide lessons management program.

We have engaged heavily with sector stakeholders to develop the LMP and can I say I have been highly encouraged by the interest and involvement demonstrated, which in my mind reflects the strong sector ownership of the program.

Research Framework Progress

The development of a Disaster Management Research Framework continues to progress strongly.

For newer readers of *IGEM Connect*, the Framework seeks to equip coalface disaster management practitioners throughout Queensland with significantly improved and relevant data and guidance to make enhanced evidence-based decisions and plans through:

- Development of a coordinated approach to undertaking, managing and sharing research
- Establishment of strategic research priorities for the disaster management sector
- Promotion of engagement between government and the tertiary sector
- Support for the transfer of research findings into practice.

Since the last edition of *IGEM Connect*, we have established a Research Advisory Panel (RAP), comprising of representatives from key State agencies, local government and tertiary institutions, to provide advice regarding a strategic way-forward in driving and delivering collaborative disaster management research and needs.

Significantly, the RAP will be a peer-driven network to ensure the needs of both practitioners at the local level and researchers are most effectively met.

The RAP has already met twice and has begun the process of prioritising research needs and considering a structure and approach to best achieve research need outcomes for the sector.

A Terms of Reference has been adopted by the RAP and a third meeting will be held early in the New Year to ensure the strong progress maintains momentum going into 2019.

Importantly, it must be noted that both the Research Framework and the RAP will complement the national work undertaken by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (BNHCRC).

The BNHCRC plays a vital role in national and more holistic research while the Research Framework seeks to address micro level evidence-based needs by looking at issues at the local level and within the Queensland context specifically.



Participants at the first Research Advisory Panel meeting

IGEM International Women's Day Award to recognise champions of change

I am passionate about creating equality and diversity in the workplace and one way of helping to achieve this is to recognise the work of those in disaster management who actively champion change, to bring about greater equality for women.

The 2019 IGEM International Women's Day (IWD) award is open to all those in the disaster management sector and we are seeking nominations from those who have demonstrated a significant contribution to improving access, equity and support for women.

Application forms are available on www.igem.qld.gov.au. Importantly, nominations will be required to address identified criteria and be endorsed by a second referee. Applications close on Friday 1 February 2019, with the winner announced at the IWD event in Brisbane on Friday 8 March 2019.

Rowena Richardson Farewell

It is with sadness that I have to say farewell to one of the Directors in my Office – Rowena Richardson.

Rowena has taken up a new position with the Department of Housing and Public Works.

As one of the original Directors in my Office, Rowena played an instrumental role in a number of our initiatives and assurance activities, most notably the development of the Emergency Management Assurance Framework and Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

I would like to express my thanks to Rowena for her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her well in her new role.

Final Comments

Our season this year has well and truly started with unprecedented heat and bushfire events across the State. I acknowledge the incredible efforts of State agencies (both staff and volunteers), local governments, deployed emergency personnel from interstate and most importantly, all community members impacted in the exceptional collaborative responses to these events.

To all who have been impacted, please know you are in our hearts and thoughts as you commence the process of recovery.

Reviewing these events will provide all of us with valuable lessons to manage going forward and I look forward to working with many of you as part of this process.

Until next time.

Iain MacKenzie

Inspector-General Emergency Management

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