



## **Media release**

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services  
and Minister for Corrective Services  
The Honourable Mark Ryan

### **MAJOR REVIEW OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS ANNOUNCED**

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**Sunday, April 09, 2017**

### **MAJOR REVIEW OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS ANNOUNCED**

A major review will be undertaken into the effectiveness of the disaster management system in Queensland, in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister Mark Ryan said he had tasked the Inspector-General of Emergency Management Iain MacKenzie with ensuring there was a robust approach to continuous improvement across all aspects of Queensland's disaster management system.

The key aims of the review were to ensure disaster management good practice was identified and shared; that lessons learnt were captured; and that common themes for improvement were adopted.

Mr Ryan said he had directed the Inspector-General to work closely with a wide range of disaster management agencies including Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, police, local and district disaster management groups, councils and the Local Government Association of Queensland to ensure the review was thorough and comprehensive.

Public views on the effectiveness and coordination of disaster management arrangements during weather events caused by Cyclone Debbie would be sought as a pivotal element of the review.

"The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring the best possible disaster management arrangements are in place for all Queenslanders," Mr Ryan said.

"Consequently, it is imperative the disaster management system and its components are reviewed and analysed thoroughly and robustly, particularly after large scale events such as Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

"Queensland is at the forefront of disaster management in Australia, and through reviews such as this, I want to heighten the strength and effectiveness of our arrangements even further."

Mr Ryan said he had asked for the review to begin as soon as possible and for findings to be considered and implemented before the 2017/18 severe weather season.

Mr MacKenzie, who has recently been re-appointed for a new three year term as Inspector-General Emergency Management, said he had had begun contacting local disaster management groups, district disaster management groups, council and agency representatives to commence the review.

Mr MacKenzie said the review would focus on three key impacts of Tropical Cyclone Debbie:

- Direct cyclone impact
- Rapid on-set weather conditions after the cyclone's coastal crossing
- Slow on-set flooding experienced in the Rockhampton area.

He said a market research firm would be engaged to undertake a major and statically valid telephone survey of 900 residents to collect public opinion in each of the three key districts.

"The Queensland Government has a clear commitment and priority to providing the best possible response and integrated government services and encouraging safer and inclusive communities," Mr MacKenzie said.

"I am convinced the results of this review will provide another valuable avenue to assess and enhance disaster management arrangements in Queensland."

The review follows a joint announcement on Wednesday by Minister Ryan and Federal Minister for Justice Michael Keenan of additional disaster assistance for Queensland councils affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

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