

IGEM *Connect*

Inspector-General Emergency Management

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2019, what a year it has been! The IGEM team certainly hit the ground running again this year with four emergent reviews including 2018 Bushfire Review, Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review, 2019 Bushfire Review and 2019 Paradise Dam Preparedness Review.

The Queensland Government has now released the Paradise Dam Preparedness Review report conducted by IGEM, and it was very pleasing to see the government endorse and accept the report's 33 findings and 17 recommendations in the formal response.

Given the severe and sustained bushfire season experienced across the state this year, work on the 2019 Queensland Bushfire Review is ongoing. I would like to recognise the incredible efforts of QFES Rural Firefighters, QPWS, SES, staff, volunteers and other emergency services personnel who have been tireless in facing the threat of the fires.

Our monitoring and evaluation team have had another busy year, out on the road, visiting councils and our valued stakeholders as part of the Mt Isa Disaster District Capability Review and health check activities. I was pleased to join them to visit Mornington Island, Doomadgee, Burketown, Mt Isa, Richmond, Cairns, Townsville, and many more.



Alistair, Veronica and Julie ready to board their flight to depart Mornington Island as part of their North West trip



Wheels down at Mornington Is airport

I thank the IGEM team for continuing to work with our valued stakeholders to deliver our program including DM plan assessments, EMAF go-live on our website, the Lessons Management Framework, IGEM website upgrade, and ensuring important upcoming events are coming together like the DMO Forum and Research Forum next year.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to working with you again next year.

Alistair Dawson
Inspector-General Emergency Management

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Paradise Dam Review final report released



Release of the Paradise Dam Preparedness Review report on 23 December 2019 in Bundaberg with Minister Lynham

The 2019 Paradise Dam Preparedness Review report has now been released by the Queensland Government.

The report made 33 findings and 17 recommendations across five key areas— including; dam safety, disaster management arrangements, emergency communications, community readiness and lessons management.

The report identified effective disaster management capability exists at the local and district level in the North Burnett and Bundaberg regions and found local community preparedness had increased in recent years.

A community survey found residents have a good understanding of the risk of riverine flooding given recent experience with widespread flooding events in 2010 and 2013. However, specific flood risks and disaster arrangements relating to a possible flood event associated with Paradise Dam were not yet well understood by the community.

The report makes a recommendation for a joint community engagement program and communication strategy to be conducted by the dam operator and local governments to help better prepare the community and casual/itinerant workers and tourism sector for events in the 2019/20 storm and cyclone season.

A copy of the report is available [on our website](#).

Call for Expressions of Interest – 2020 Qld DM Research Forum

The theme for the inaugural Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum is *local issues, local research, local solutions*.

Coinciding with the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Brisbane (29 June to 2 July, 2020), the Research Forum (1 July 2020) is open to all disaster management practitioners and researchers. It will be a space for us to meet, share ideas and discuss research impact.

Expressions of interest for proposals are now open until Friday 14 February 2020, for:

- 15 minute 'TED Talks'- style presentations
- Vox Pops (3 minute AV recordings)
- Posters, ESRI story maps

To register interest in attending and/or to submit a proposal, please [complete the online form](#).

New EMAF and Standard released

Last year, our team commenced working with representatives from across the DM sector to refresh the Emergency Management Assurance Framework (the EMAF) and the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland (the DM Standard). This resulted in several changes made to the documents, making them more contemporary, simpler and easier to understand for our stakeholders.

The refreshed DM Standard is currently being implemented by the Office, using a phased approach over the next few months. It is available on the [IGEM website](#) and will come into effect on 1 July 2020.

2020 DMO Network Forum

As we gear up for 2020, we are also getting ready to once again host the Disaster Management Officers' Network Forum. Previously we had been looking at a date in May 2020, however the Forum will need to be rescheduled to later in the year due to emergent work for by both the Office and local councils.

Our Office will continue to liaise with network members to find suitable new date for the Forum and seek your feedback and suggestions via a survey to be sent out early in the New Year. The Office looks forward to being able to announce details in the New Year.

For more information, please e-mail: R&E@igem.qld.gov.au or phone: 3029 8812

New-look website

The team has been working to ensure our resources are easy to access for our stakeholders. As part of this work, we have launched a new-look IGEM website. Check it out at: www.igem.qld.gov.au