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December 2020 | No. 23

Welcome to the new digital version of IGEM Connect! This is our bumper end of year edition - full of the latest updates from IGEM and the disaster management sector. The new online format will mean IGEM Connect will be shorter and easier to navigate.

We hope you enjoy the new format and welcome any feedback you have about how we can continue to make IGEM Connect an interesting and relevant source of information for you.



Merry Christmas from IGEM

2020 has indeed been a challenging year for so many, as our world grappled with the impact of a global pandemic. What we thought the year might bring and what it brought were certainly different to the one we had hoped for!

While COVID-19 tested us all, it also brought forward new opportunities and innovation. Many workplaces adapted their way of doing business to cater for a mix of in-office and remote working.

Queensland companies rose to the occasion and began transforming their production lines to manufacture face masks, hand sanitiser and ventilators.

There is no doubt, that our health and disaster management sectors have also worked incredibly hard.

Local, district and state disaster management staff and volunteers, health and frontline workers have been activated since early 2020, many of which working around the clock to keep Queenslanders safe.

There is indeed much to reflect upon and be grateful for this year. Our state has stared down this immense challenge together.

To the many police, fire and emergency services, health and local government staff and our volunteers who will continue to keep Queenslanders safe over the holiday period, we say thank you for your efforts and your sacrifice.

From the team here at IGEM, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2021!

Thank you to Minister Crawford and welcome Minister Ryan

IGEM would like to formally recognise the efforts of Minister Craig Crawford. Our team worked with Minister Crawford and his team for almost three years, under the Disaster Management Act reporting arrangements. During this time a number of important reviews were undertaken and focused on continuous improvement in Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

The team at IGEM warmly welcomes our new Minister Mark Ryan, who has previously served as the Minister with responsibility for IGEM. We look forward to continuing to enhance disaster management arrangements in Queensland through collaboration, partnerships and innovation.

Public submissions now open for K'gari Bushfire Review

The community is invited to have their say as part of the IGEM review into the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire event. Public submissions are now open until 22 January 2021. The six-week public submission phase will ensure the bushfire review takes into consideration the views and experiences of First Nations people, local residents, business and tourism operators, local community and environment groups, emergency services personnel and volunteers, and other interested parties.

Public submissions can be made via email to: Kgari.Review@igem.qld.gov.au or via post to: GPO Box 1425, Mail Cluster 15.7 Brisbane, Queensland 4001.

EOIs announced for Disaster Management Research Forum

IGEM is pleased to host our inaugural Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum on 14 July 2021 at the State Library in Brisbane. The theme is: looking back, being present, looking forward.

Expressions of Interest are open for:

- 15-minute presentations showcasing research/sector collaborations
- Posters and case studies from early career researchers
- Vox pops (2-3 minutes)

[Find out more >>](#)

[Submit your EOI online](#)

Update on new National Research Centre

The case for a new national research approach was highlighted during the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. Dr Pigram formerly of Geoscience Australia has been tasked with engaging with states and territories about establishing the new centre.

The new centre is expected to commence on 1 July 2021, with an initial operational plan for 10 years. The Commonwealth Government is looking at a hub and spoke model to support the new centre, with no decision yet as to head office or hub locations.

Customer Satisfaction survey results

Earlier this year, IGEM invited a wide range of our stakeholders to complete our annual customer satisfaction survey.

We received a healthy return rate and some invaluable feedback on the strengths of the IGEM and opportunities for improvement especially during this unique year with COVID-19.

The survey resulted in some significant increases in satisfaction including in relation to the advice provided as a result of a review which increased from 58% in 2018–19 to 80% in 2019–20.

2020/21 Annual Report released

The Office has released its 2019-20 Annual Report, including the following highlights:

- launching a new four-year strategic plan for the Office.
- delivering the review reports including Paradise Dam and 2019 Queensland Bushfires
- development of a new monitoring and evaluation reporting process for IGEM's review recommendations
- ongoing collaboration with the Disaster Management Officers' Network
- continuing to apply the Queensland Disaster Management Research

Bushfire and COVID-19 top hazards in DM plan assessment

A big thank you to local and district groups for your contributions to this year's disaster management assessment process. We achieved an 100 per cent return rate from all local and district groups that were within scope of this year's assessment.

This year's process focused on risk and groups were asked to identify their top three hazards for their local areas. Bushfire was identified as a top hazard by the majority of local groups. This was closely followed by pandemic, then flood, tropical cyclone and severe weather.

Other hazards identified as significant by some groups include heatwave, hazardous chemical incidents, animal or plant biosecurity incidents and landslides.

Out and about with IGEM

National Emergency Medals for Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) staff

Inspector-General Alistair Dawson was pleased to help present National Emergency Medals to DTMR staff public who work behind the scenes keeping Queenslanders safe in storm season.

This includes hardworking people like Director-General Neil Scales and Stacey McInnes (formerly of DTMR) from the Department Energy and Public Works



Indigenous Leaders Forum

Inspector-General Alistair Dawson joined Queensland Police Service Commissioner Katarina Carroll and Queensland indigenous leaders at the LGAQ Indigenous Leaders Forum in October to talk about disaster management.

Queensland Resilient Australia Award winners

Winners for this year's awards were announced during a virtual ceremony.

The Inspector-General helped to virtually announce and present the Schools Award to Thuringowa State High School while on the road in Mount Isa.

Here's a behind the scenes photo of Alistair Dawson dialling into the virtual ceremony!



[Find out more >>](#)

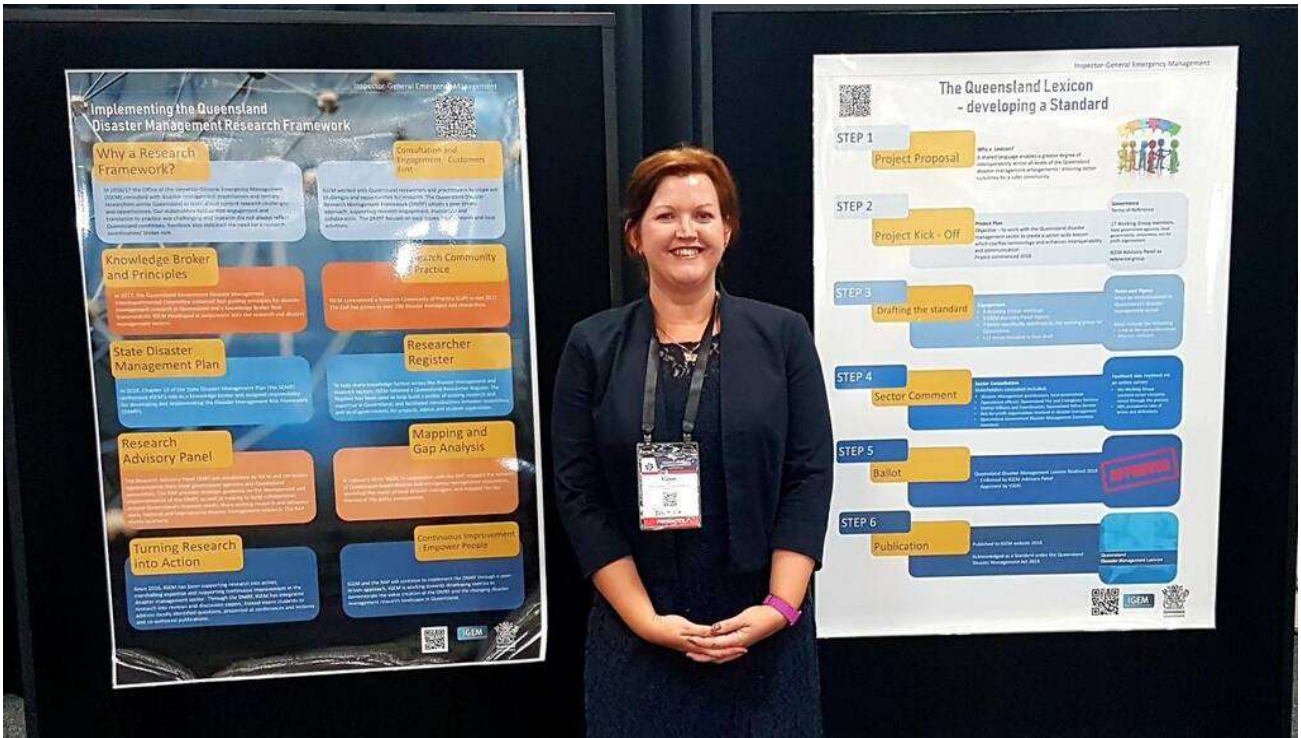


IGEM joined November Leading Women's panel

Leading Women is a network of women working across the Queensland police, corrective, and emergency services and integrity organisations.

Corinne Mulholland from the IGEM team joined the panel for Leading Women event in November, talking about optimising career opportunities.

IGEM at ANZDMC Conference



Dr Allison Rifai presented IGEM posters at this year’s Australia New Zealand Disaster Management Conference on the Gold Coast on Queensland’s Disaster Management Research Framework and the Lexicon.

She joined Lucy Tramacchi and Julie Molloy from IGEM who also presented at the Conference on the Emergency Management Assurance Framework as a case study of strategic policy design in collaboration with Queensland disaster management sector.

Follow us on social media

Don't forget to follow IGEM on and Twitter, for all the latest news and information about Queensland's disaster management sector.



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