

Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland

Overview factsheet

DMS

Why a Standard?

The [Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland](#) (the DM standard) establishes the performance requirements for all entities involved in disaster management. It also forms the basis for assurance activities conducted by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) or a disaster management entity.

The DM standard should be applied in conjunction with disaster management doctrine, good practice guidance and government policy, with particular reference to the [Disaster Management Act 2003](#) (the Act) and the [Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline](#).

Legislative basis

The legislative basis for Queensland's disaster management arrangements is the Act and the [Disaster Management Regulation 2014](#).

Section 16C of the Act lays out IGEM's functions. They include:

- (d) to make disaster management standards;
- (e) to regularly review and assess disaster management standards;
- (f) to review, assess and report on performance by entities responsible for disaster management in the State against the disaster management standards.

Section 16N of the Act states that 'The inspector-general may make 1 or more standards (each a disaster management standard) about the way in which entities responsible for disaster management in the State are to undertake disaster management.'

A focus on Outcomes

The DM standard is the first example of an outcomes-focussed standard in the disaster management sector in Australia, and one of very few that exist internationally. By focussing on outcomes rather than setting a 'minimum' standard that must be met, the DM standard moves away from a traditional compliance tool, and towards enhancing performance and achieving shared system-wide goals set by the sector.

It's important for the DM standard to focus on outcomes; and be able to be flexibly applied to different circumstances. As an assurance standard, this allows the entities using it to direct their efforts towards continuous improvement of their practices rather than compliance. This helps to cultivate a culture of positive learning and continuous improvement in the disaster management sector in Queensland.

Who is it for?

The DM standard should be used by all entities in Queensland with a responsibility to contribute to disaster management. This includes those with legislated roles, as well as entities acting on behalf of or under an arrangement with those that do.