



June 2021 | No. 25

Message from the IGEM

Welcome to the latest edition of IGEM Connect. As we approach the end of the financial year, we can reflect on what an incredibly busy 2020/21 period for our sector. Councils, district and state level officers have been activated for COVID-19 operations for more than 16 months. Many of these officers are now ramping up to assist the COVID-19 vaccine rollouts across the state.

It has indeed been a busy time for IGEM with public release of the K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review on 27 May. The review makes 38 recommendations across a range of topics including more engagement with the community in bushfire planning and mitigation activities, reviewing the Queensland Bushfire Plan and ensuring our disaster management system is exercising the plan regularly.

I would like to thank the hundreds of people who engaged with us through the period of the review including the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Butchulla People who co-designed a forum with IGEM, a further 147 people who attended public forums on and off the island, 78 people who provided written submissions, and a further 20 academics and researchers who joined us for an online forum to discuss K'gari. Your invaluable feedback has helped to shape the K'gari Bushfire Review and will no doubt help to continue to enhance Queensland bushfire arrangements.

The outcomes of the review will be timely as we approach the start of the next Queensland Bushfire Season on 1 August 2021. IGEM will be working closely with QFES and QPWS to ensure recommendations from the review are implemented as soon as possible.

In this edition of IGEM Connect you will find a wrap up from the 2021 Queensland Disaster Management Conference, an update on the disaster management plan assessment process and the Disaster Management Standard, and a summary of some upcoming events. IGEM has launched its customer satisfaction survey for this year, I encourage you to share your feedback with IGEM so we can continue to ensure our service delivery reflects the wants and needs of our valued stakeholders.

From the whole team here at IGEM, we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in 2021/22 financial year with the sector to drive continuous improvement in Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review

IGEM has recently finalised its review into the bushfire events on K'gari (Fraser Island) that garnered world-wide media coverage late last year.

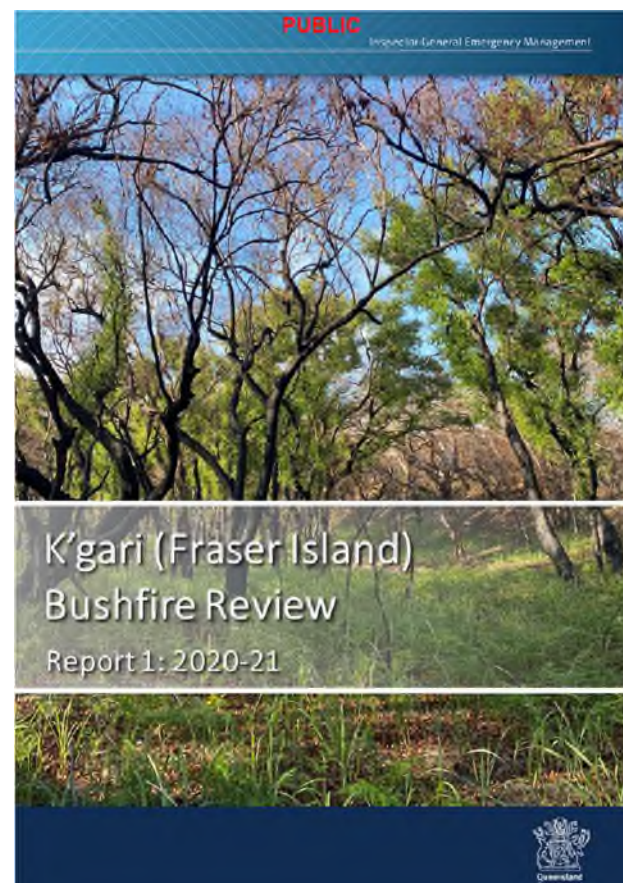
In conducting the review, IGEM examined the preparedness and response to bushfire and ensured examples of good practice and any opportunities for improvement were highlighted in the final review report tabled in Queensland Parliament on 27 May 2021.

The review included specific and targeted community engagement with the Butchulla people including meeting with staff and board members of the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Board and co-designing and co-delivering a Butchulla People's Forum in Hervey Bay.

A series of five community and business forums were hosted by IGEM at Orchid Beach, Happy Valley, Kingfisher Bay, Urangan and Rainbow Beach with 147 attendees in total. IGEM also received and carefully considered 78 written public submissions from community, environmental, business and tourism representatives.

IGEM made a total of 38 recommendations which were all supported or supported in principle in the Queensland Government Response.

[Read the review report >>](#)



A wrap-up of the 2021 Queensland Disaster Management Conference



IGEM was proud to partner with the LGAQ, QFES, QPS and QRA last week to deliver the 2021 Queensland Disaster Management Conference in Brisbane from 9 to 11 June. Day 1 of the Conference featured the new Disaster Management Officer's (DMO) Network Forum which included 66 participants from 39 councils across Queensland.

The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive. We had some great presentations and discussions on the day. I would like to congratulate all of you on your valuable contributions and acknowledge our DMO Working Group members and their efforts in preparing and delivering the forum.

Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum – registrations open

Registrations are now open for the inaugural Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum 2021 hosted by IGEM. The forum will focus on *looking back – being present – looking forward* and showcase how Queensland can bring disaster management research and practice together. It's a free online forum on Wednesday 14 July 2021.

[Learn more about the forum and register for this free event >>](#)

The Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum—2021

Registrations are now open for the Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum 2021.

By **looking back—being present—looking forward** the Forum will showcase how Queensland uses research and practice together to manage our complex and changing disaster environment.

For more information contact IGEM:
R&E@igem.qld.gov.au or visit www.igem.qld.gov.au

Date: Wednesday 14 July
Online: Streamed live

Registrations open now:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/queensland-disaster-management-research-forum-tickets-12937775409>

IGEM
Inspector General of Emergency Management

Queensland Government

Update on the Disaster Management Standard

IGEM recently proposed some small changes to the the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland (the Standard) and Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) before they come into effect on 1 July 2021.

We consulted with a cross section of stakeholders on the changes. The feedback received was that it was easier to understand and the intent of the two documents was clearer.

The Standard is for the sector – it's about achieving Outcomes. The EMAF is focused on IGEM – how IGEM enables confidence in the disaster management arrangements.

As you apply the updated Standard, we will be keen to get your feedback

[View the Standard online>>](#)



Disaster Management Plan Assessment process extended

Due to the increased operational commitments for local and district groups to assist with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, IGEM has extended the deadline for disaster management plan assessment response to be returned now by 5pm, Thursday 30 September.

For further information please contact the Office of the IGEM on (07) 3029 8813 or info@igem.qld.gov.au

Customer satisfaction survey out now

IGEM has launched its annual customer satisfaction survey. As a valued stakeholder, your views are important to us and we would greatly appreciate receiving your feedback.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and will be in-field until Friday 25 June 2021.

New Strategic Plan launched

The Office has launched its new Strategic Plan for 2021-25 which outlines our vision for driving continuous improvement in emergency management. The strategic plan will guide the strategic direction of our Office and it's work over the next four years.

[View our plan >>](#)

Welcome to new LGAQ CEO

IGEM extends a warm welcome to Alison Smith following the announcement of her appointment as the association's next CEO.

Alison will officially begin in the role on November 1 following the retirement of long-serving CEO Greg Hallam. We look forward to working with Alison in her new role and of course the entire LGAQ team.

Upcoming events

Lessons Management Conference, Brisbane – 6-7 July
<https://www.aidr.org.au/resources/2021-lessons-management-forum/>

Australian & New Zealand Disaster & Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast – 12-13 July
<https://anzdmc.com.au/>

Disaster Management Research Forum (free and online) – 14 July
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/queensland-disaster-management-research-forum-tickets-129377775409>

LGAQ Bush Councils Convention – 3-5 August, Barcaldine
<https://www.lgaq.asn.au/events/event/18/bush-councils-convention>

AFAC/AIDR Conference Sydney – 17-20 August
<https://www.afaconference.com.au/>

Queensland Resilient Australia Award Ceremony – August to October TBC
<https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/>

LGAQ 125th Annual Conference, Mackay – 25-27 October
<https://www.lgaq.asn.au/events/event/20/the-125th-lgaq-annual-conference>

National Resilient Australia Awards Ceremony – November TBC
<https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/>

Out and about with the IGEM



A great panel discussion at the conference about how working together we can achieve so much. Panel members included Inspector-General Alistair Dawson, CEO of QRA Brendan Moon, State Disaster Coordinator Steve Gollschewski and QFES Commissioner Greg Leach



Luke Connery from City of Gold Coast joined John Arrowsmith from IGEM, Peter McNamee from Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and Terry Armstrong from Queensland Police Service to talk about the Disaster Management Standard and achieving outcomes using a case study of the COVID-19 operations on the Gold Coast

DMO Forum at the 2021 Queensland Disaster Management Conference



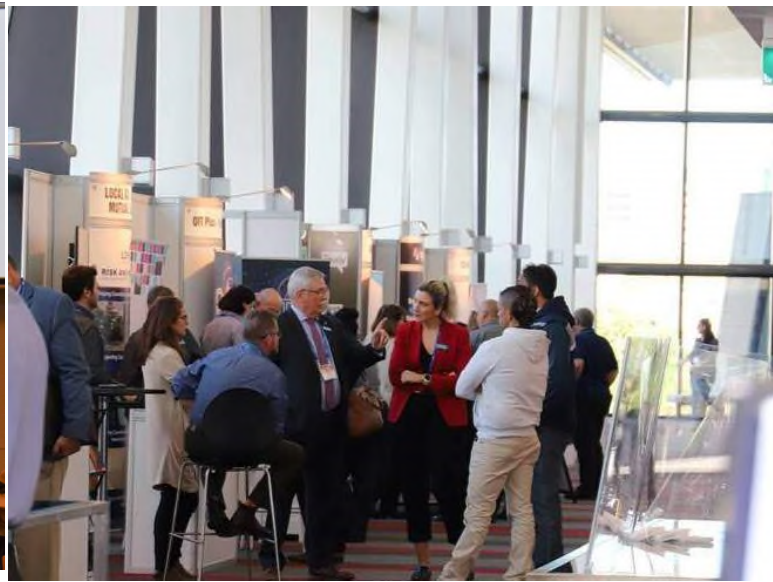
Inspector-General Alistair Dawson officially opening the 2021 DMO Forum



Lucy Tramacchi and John Arrowsmith staffing our IGEM booth at the conference



Allison Rifai, IGEM providing an overview of the upcoming Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum



Inspector-General Alistair Dawson and Corinne Mulholland catching up with conference attendees. Source: LGAQ.



Nicola Moore, IGEM MC'ing the DMO Forum



Peter Jeffery, Brisbane City Council welcoming participants at the DMO Forum and providing the acknowledgement of country.



Spontaneous Volunteers: Exploring ways to mitigate the spontaneity. Harry Crawford, Response and Recovery Officer, Brisbane City Council



Matt Pinder, Ipswich City Council presenting on the value of integrating disaster management planning in a changing world



Jamie Kleinhans, Douglas Shire Council delivering a great presentation on the professionalisation of disaster management in Queensland



Liz Drumm, Rockhampton Regional Council delivering a fantastic joint presentation on local disaster management planning



Cathy Buck, Sunshine Coast Council presenting on communication and evacuation arrangements in aged care



John Arrowsmith, IGEM providing an update on the Disaster Management Standard



Mike Lollback, LGAQ reflecting on the 2011 floods experience and how we can continue the important work of ongoing professional development of our hardworking DMOs across councils



My Resilient Schools – Brisbane City Council presentation at DMO forum including:

1. Phil Bell, SES Volunteer, North Eastern Group, Brisbane City SES Unit.
2. Laura Wheeler, Community Engagement Officer, Community Safety, Brisbane Region, Queensland Fire Emergency Services
3. Kathy Buchanan, Community Capability Officer, Brisbane City Council
4. Halle Payie, Senior Capability Development Officer, Brisbane City Council

Follow us on social media

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



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