

Inspector-General's message

I am pleased to present the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) Annual Report 2020–21.

From the outset, I would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our disaster management sector during these truly unique and challenging times. Many personnel in our sector have been working alongside health and frontline workers for well over 18 months in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our sector now moves from bushfire season towards the upcoming storm, and cyclone season, we do so with the concurrent threat of COVID-19, which has already brought new challenges, new variants and new ways of doing business. It will bring with it new challenges for evacuation and sheltering arrangements, food and supply chains and fatigue management for our personnel.

COVID-19 has indeed taught us that we must not only expect the unexpected, but we must plan and prepare for the unexpected. This underscores the importance of the disaster management sector, agencies, the research sector, and community working together, sharing knowledge and truly learning lessons.

IGEM has continued to work with our partners and stakeholders to deliver a valuable contribution to the Queensland Government's objectives of Safeguarding our health and Backing our frontline services.

In 2020–21, IGEM has worked to deliver the following activities:

- commenced the annual review of local and district disaster management plans
- update to the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland to make it more user-friendly
- jointly held the first Queensland Disaster Management Conference with our key event partners including the Local Government Association of Queensland, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- hosted six community, First Nations and business forums to inform the K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review, which was tabled in the Queensland Parliament
- undertook extensive planning and engagement for the inaugural Disaster Management Research Forum which was held on 14 July 2021.

IGEM has continued to focus on supporting frontline service delivery and reducing the burden on the sector while seeking to utilise online and digital platforms to engage with our stakeholders. IGEM has forged new partnerships with stakeholders to deliver new and reimagined events for the sector which will remain our focus in 2021–22 and beyond. Another key priority for IGEM is to continue to seek opportunities to enhance engagement and learning from First Nations peoples. There is much to be learnt and shared from cultural practices to better inform our prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank our professional and hardworking IGEM staff. I look forward to continuing to work together with the team to drive continuous improvement across the sector.



Alistair Dawson APM

Inspector-General of Emergency Management