

IGEM CONNECT

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management

October 2024 Edition 31



Acknowledgment of Country

The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country.

We recognise their connection to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

Welcome to the latest edition of IGEM Connect.

As we near the end of another big year for Queensland's disaster management sector, we're pleased to share key updates from the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management.

In August, we celebrated our 10-Year Anniversary, marking a decade of advancing Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements to enhance public safety and build resilience across our state. It was an honour to celebrate this milestone with our past and present employees, stakeholders, and partners. As part of the special event, we launched our refreshed corporate identity, which, through design elements, reflects our mission to connect and strengthen Queensland's disaster management sector.

We look forward to our upcoming 2024 Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum in November. This event will provide a valuable space for disaster management practitioners and researchers to connect, share ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions.

We appreciate the continued collaboration and support from all our stakeholders and wish the sector all the best now that we have entered another higher-risk weather season.

Alistair

2024 Local Disaster Management Plans Assessment process

Thank you to all local and district disaster management groups that responded to the 2024 Disaster Management Plan Assessment process. We received 99 percent of responses, which is a great outcome.

The Disaster Management team are working through these responses to prepare the consultation draft. This draft includes challenges and examples of good practice.

Each year we coordinate the Disaster Management Plan Assessment process in accordance with Section 16C of the Disaster Management Act 2003 (the Act). Local and District Disaster Management Groups have a legislated responsibility to review and assess their local disaster management plans under Section 59 and Section 23 of the Act respectively.

LDMG Chairs and other key stakeholders will receive a copy of the final report later in the year.

Office of the IGEM capability reviews

The Office of the IGEM conducts capability reviews under section 16C of the Disaster Management Act 2003 to assess disaster management effectiveness across all levels of the system.

In 2021, we piloted an updated capability review methodology in the Roma Disaster District, focusing on a locust plague scenario. This process involved collaboration across Queensland's disaster management arrangements, including an evaluation of plans, a desktop exercise, and a self-assessment.

To ensure our future capability reviews are relevant, we want to hear from you!

What disaster events, locations, or scenarios should we focus on for reviews in 2024-25 and 2025-26? Would your local government or agency be interested in participating?

Please send your suggestions to Marissa.Anderson@igem.qld.gov.au by Thursday 7 November 2024. For further discussion, contact Marissa on 0409 118 495.

Meet our new team member

This year we welcomed our new Manager, Disaster Management. Here is a little about him:

Damian O'Sullivan

Manager, Disaster Management

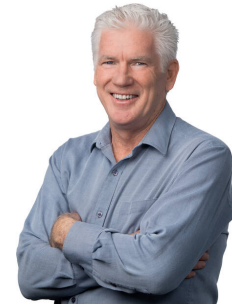
Damian joined the Office of the IGEM in April 2024. He has extensive experience across all three tiers of government, the tertiary education sector, and the not-for-profit sector.

Before joining the Office of IGEM, he lived and worked in Japan and the Tiwi Islands, where he participated in a Commonwealth Government healthcare trial. Additionally, he spent ten years as a secondary school teacher, teaching Science, Health and Physical Education, and Japanese.

In his role with the Department of Tourism and Sport, Damian coordinated various Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements programs focused on tourism, economic recovery and resilience. This experience fueled his passion for disaster management.

His collaboration with the State Disaster Coordination Centre during the COVID-19 pandemic further enhanced his expertise in securing quarantine accommodations for returning individuals from international and domestic locations.

An advocate for cooperation in the sector, Damian has received multiple awards throughout his career and enjoys outdoor activities and family time. He holds a degree from the University of Western Australia and a Post Graduate Diploma of Science from the University of Queensland.



2024-2025 IGEM Research Strategy

The Office of the IGEM is implementing a strategic approach to research that supports our role as a knowledge broker for the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements. To support this initiative, we will be updating our website to provide easier access to the latest disaster management research findings and resources.

Research Connect Newsletter

Coming soon! If you love IGEM Connect, you'll be excited to hear about our upcoming Research Connect newsletter—bringing you the latest on disaster management research, collaboration, and events.

Office of the IGEM Annual Report 2023-24

The Office of the IGEM Annual Report 2023-24 was tabled and published on the Parliamentary Office's website in September.

[View the Annual Report here](#)

IGEM Engagements

Here's a glimpse into some of our travels over the past three months:

In August, we celebrated our 10-Year Anniversary alongside past and present employees, stakeholders, and partners.



The IGEM and team attended the 2024 AFAC Conference in Sydney.



The IGEM attended the Higher Risk Weather Season National Preparedness Summit in Canberra, with crisis and disaster management experts from government, industry and community organisations.



Our Director, Research and Communications, Kate Retzki, attended the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering in Lismore.



Director, Communications and Research, Kate Retzki, served on the judging panel for the 2024 Queensland

The 2024 LGAQ Annual Conference last week was a fantastic opportunity to connect with local government

Resilient Australia Awards.



representatives, stakeholders, and partners.



Upcoming IGEM Events

Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum

The Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum is open to all disaster management practitioners and researchers. It will be a space for researchers and practitioners to meet, share ideas and start conversations.

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Location: Rydges, South Bank Brisbane

Online registrations are still available, closing on Friday 15th November. Register via the button below.



[Learn more and register](#)

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If you or your agency would like to schedule a chat with the IGEM, please email igem.info@igem.qld.gov.au or call 07 3029 8813.

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