

## Queensland Government Response to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's 'Review of Queensland's 2023–24 Severe Weather Season Report 1:2024–25'

On 18 April 2024, the former Minister for Police and Community Safety tasked the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) with conducting a review and providing the *2023–24 Severe Weather Season Review - Report 1: 2024–25* (the Report) to assess the Queensland Governments preparedness and response to disaster events for the period 1 October 2023 to 30 April 2024.

The Report made the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that by October 2025 the Queensland Police Service, as part of the 'State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline (the Guideline) Review and Renewal Program', provide clarity in the following key areas of the doctrine:

- evacuation terminology and procedures
- audience and purpose of local disaster management plans
- parameters for sharing of personal information during and after disasters
- transitional arrangements — roles and responsibilities when moving from response to recovery operations
- relief terminology.

**Recommendation 2:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Police Service lead a review to establish a framework to clearly define the intersect between self-evacuation and emergency shelters, including but not limited to places of refuge, evacuation centres and public cyclone shelters, ensuring roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated.

**Recommendation 3:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority continues to engage with councils in the development of their local resilience action plans including to identify local needs with respect to communication, connectivity, and power in suitable hubs.

**Recommendation 4:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Fire Department engage with each council and local disaster management group (LDMG) and consult with the Local Government Association of Queensland to establish protocols for:

- locally led activation of LDMGs for bushfire events
- sharing of relevant bushfire intelligence
- identification of relevant local triggers
- communication and engagement arrangements.

The protocols are to be established by 1 August 2025.

**Recommendation 5:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Police Service lead and co-design a whole-of-state training and exercise strategy.

**Recommendation 6:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Police Service lead the establishment of a co-designed governance framework to achieve objectives that enhance the understanding of Queensland's disaster management arrangements within all disaster management entities, government, non-government, and the community.

**Recommendation 7:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that the Queensland Police Service lead the co-design of an all hazards Queensland warnings strategy. The strategy will establish the governance framework for the Warnings Community of Practice and implement a model of continuous improvement for governance, doctrine and processes, including the procurement of a common publishing platform to create and publish warnings.

**Recommendation 8:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that for the recommendations arising from this review, the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management is involved in consultation prior to the finalisation of the government action plan, to align intended actions with the intent of the recommendations.

**Recommendation 9:** The Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommends that this review report be returned to the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management to monitor, evaluate and report on progress and implementation of the recommendations that are accepted in whole or in part by government.

The Government accepts in-principle Recommendations 4 and 7 and accepts all remaining recommendations and notes that the recommendations are within scope of business-as-usual activities of the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire Department, and Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

The Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire Department, and Queensland Reconstruction Authority have programs of work and activities in progress which will address or contribute to addressing issues identified in the Report. These agencies remain committed to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure the continued enhancement of the disaster management arrangements.