Queensland Government
State Disaster Management Group

The disaster management arrangements in Queensland – an overview

Queensland
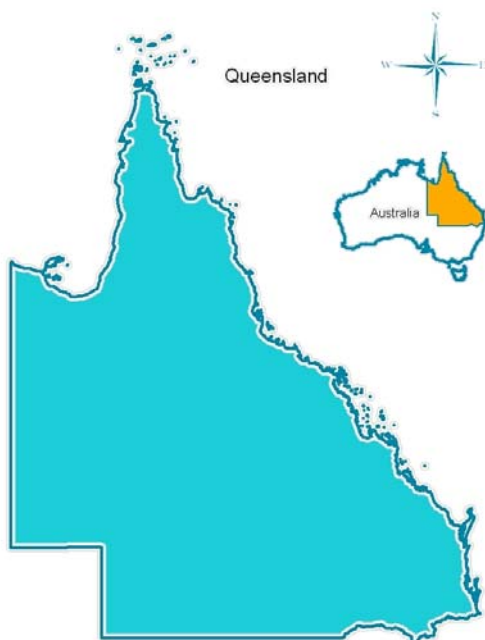
Australia

6th Edition

Queensland has a high risk of natural disasters; higher than most other states in Australia. Through effective disaster management arrangements the adverse impacts of disasters upon Queensland communities can be reduced. Everyone has a part to play in reducing community vulnerability to extreme events, such as floods, bushfires, cyclones, and severe storms. Government has a role but so too do communities, families and individuals.

This booklet has been prepared in collaboration with key Queensland disaster management stakeholders and the contribution of these stakeholders is acknowledged.

It is not intended for this booklet to provide an in-depth outline of the disaster management arrangements in Queensland but rather to provide a high-level overview for anyone interested in these arrangements, including disaster managers, interested stakeholders and community members.

If further information is sought or you wish to provide feedback, a list of useful web-references is provided on page 15 of this booklet or you can contact us at sdmg@emergency.qld.gov.au.

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Legislation

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DM Act) forms the legislative basis for disaster management arrangements for Queensland including:

- establishing disaster management groups for the State, Disaster Districts and Local Government areas;
- detailing planning requirements at each level;
- maintaining the role and operations of the State Emergency Service (SES) and establishment of Emergency Service Units (ESUs); and
- providing for the conferring of powers on selected individuals and groups.

The main objectives of the DM Act are:

- To help communities:
  - mitigate the potential adverse effects of an event; and
  - prepare for managing the effects of an event; and
  - to effectively respond to and recover from a disaster or an emergency situation.
- To provide for effective disaster management for the state,
- To establish a framework for the management of the SES to ensure the effective performance of their functions.

A copy of the DM Act is available at: http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2003/03AC091.pdf

Incident or Disaster?

- **Incident**   An event or series of events, accidentally or deliberately caused, which requires a response from one or more of the statutory emergency response agencies.

- **Disaster**   A serious disruption to community life which threatens or causes death or injury in that community and/or damage to property which is beyond the day-to-day capacity of the prescribed statutory authorities and which requires special mobilisation and organisation of resources other than those normally available to those authorities.

In Queensland, the DM Act defines a 'disaster' as a *serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant co-ordinated response by the state and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.* A serious disruption is defined as:

- loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
- widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
- wide-spread or severe damage to the environment.

The 'event' may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions and means any of the following:

- a cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening;
- an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill or a gas leak;
- an infestation, plague or epidemic;
- a failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure;
- an attack against the state.

Disasters are not simply large-scale incidents. They require very different treatment, which is reflected in planning and operational management systems. These systems must be able to address the needs of any community suffering from the effects of a disaster and who require outside assistance in order to cope with the effects.

# Queensland Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

Development of a strategic policy framework for disaster management for the state is a function of the State Group under the DM Act. Queensland's Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework (SPF) was endorsed by the State Group in February 2006.

The SPF aims to:

- Articulate the vision and goals for disaster management for the state in line with the objectives of the Act.
- Outline the strategic direction to guide the development of disaster management policies and programmes for Queensland.
- Focus on *a comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies* approach to disaster management.
- Align the strategic direction for disaster risk reduction with international and national reforms.
- Mainstream disaster mitigation into relevant areas of activity of government, non-government, small business and corporations.
- Outline the governance and accountability arrangements in place that support achievements of disaster management priorities

In line with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002),* the SPF identifies elements of disaster management as follows:

- disaster research;
- policy and governance;
- disaster risk assessment;
- disaster mitigation;
- disaster preparedness;
- disaster response;
- disaster relief and recovery; and
- post-disaster assessment.
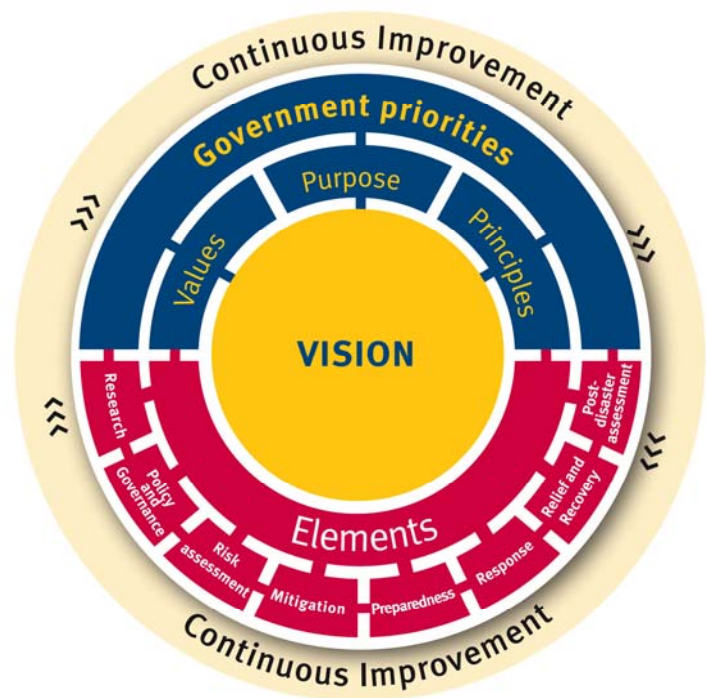
A copy of the SPF can be obtained from: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications.

A copy of the COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002*) can be obtained from: http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/policy.jsp#COAG

Disaster Management Concepts

Australia has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of its disaster management arrangements and programmes for the effective management of emergencies and disasters. Queensland's disaster management arrangements have been developed in accordance with these concepts:

- a comprehensive approach
- an all hazards approach;
- an all agencies approach; and
- a prepared community.

A comprehensive approach

Disaster management planning must adopt the comprehensive approach to ensure a balance between the reduction or eliminating of risk and the enhancement of community resilience whilst ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities. The four components of a comprehensive approach are often referred to as PPRR – prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery:

- *Prevention* – includes mitigation activities and seeks to eliminate or reduce the impact of hazard themselves and/or to reduce the susceptibility and increase the resilience of the community subject to the impact of those hazards. Programme activities may include building codes, zoning, land-use management, legislation, public education and information.

- *Preparedness* – establishment of arrangements and plans and providing education and information to prepare the community to deal effectively with an emergency or disaster. Typical programme activities may include development of emergency response plans, warning systems, training programmes, test exercises, evacuation plans, public education and information.

- *Response* – activating preparedness arrangements and plans to put in place effective measures to deal with emergencies and disasters if and when they do occur. For example, implementation disaster management plans, warning messages, search and rescue, providing immediate relief, evacuation and damage assessments.

- *Recovery* – assisting a community affected by an emergency or disaster in reconstruction of the physical and infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being. For example, restoration of essential services and public assets, counselling programmes, publication information, economic impact studies, review development plans and manage public appeals.

Whilst preparedness and response activities and measures are closely related and sequential, recovery follows the impact of an event; the comprehensive approach to emergency management requires that PPRR programmes be effectively integrated.

An all hazards approach

An all hazards approach refers to the development of arrangements for managing a large range of possible hazard and associated risks. This concept is useful to the extent that a range of risks can cause similar consequences and such measures as warning, evacuation, medical services and community recovery will be required during and following emergencies. Many risks will require specific response and recovery measures and will almost certainly require specific prevention and mitigation measures.

An all agencies approach

An all agencies approach recognises that no single agency can prepare for and deal with the disruption to community life and infrastructure that can result from a disaster event. This approach involves effectively co-ordinating the activities of the large number of organisations and agencies that are required to contribute to the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) spectrum within and across all levels of government.

An all agencies approach recognises the need for co-ordination arrangements containing input of Australian, State and local governments to be articulated and set within a legislative and public policy

framework. The arrangements must reflect the disaster management responsibilities of all agencies within the context of community safety and sustainability.

All agencies need to have an understanding of the disaster management policy frameworks and arrangements that apply in their areas of responsibility. Some agencies will have a primary role in only one of the components of the PPRR spectrum, but most can be expected to have a secondary or support role in others.

A prepared community

The basic requirements for a prepared community are to develop effective emergency management arrangements at the local level resulting in:

- an alert, informed and active community which supports voluntary organisations;
- effective community organisations with identified and constructive roles in local emergency management arrangements;
- an active and involved local government, which acknowledges its roles in community safety issues with established, widely-understood and practiced arrangements for discharging its community safety responsibilities; and
- agreed and co-ordinated arrangements for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

During a disaster event, individual and community self-help can often provide the most readily available and effective relief, as assistance from external sources may be limited or delayed by other demands on resources.

Local volunteer organisations, when effectively integrated into local disaster management arrangements, can be of vital assistance in giving access to community resources and expertise and also act as a link in the essential information chain between local government, disaster management agencies and the community.

Individuals can assist by being aware of local hazards and recommended precautions against risks. Individuals and families that heed advice on appropriate precautions can also reduce the demands on emergency management agencies, thus helping to ensure that local government arrangements remain effective. Additionally individuals can assist by actively participating in volunteer organisations.

A prepared community has organisations and communities that are able to work together to respond to the emergency, save lives and property and assist the community to recover.

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements

Queensland's whole-of-government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnership between government, government-owned corporations, non-government organisations (NGOs), commerce and industry sectors and the local community. These arrangements recognise each level of the disaster management arrangements working collaboratively to ensure the effective co-ordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.
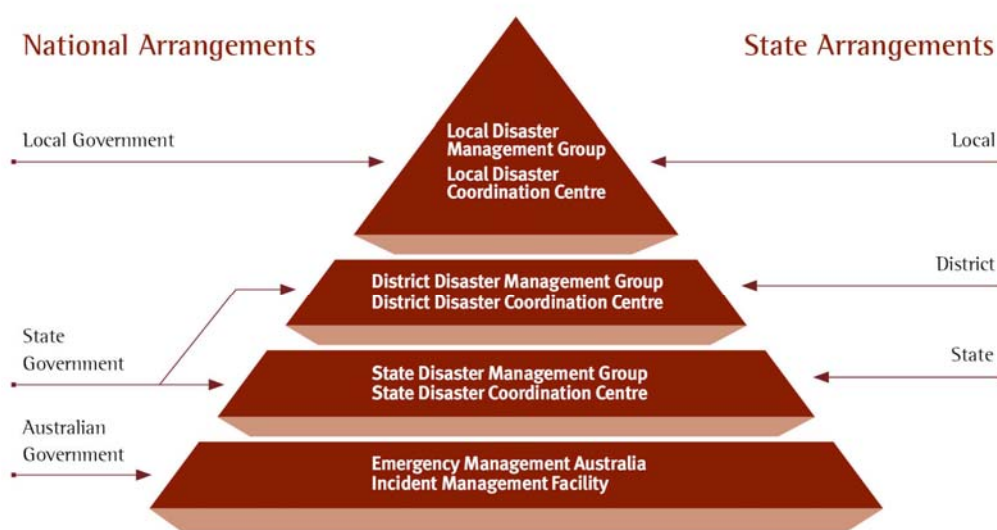
The Australian disaster management arrangements are formed around three levels of government; Local, State and the Australian Government. The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements acknowledge these three levels of government, however are based on a four-tiered system to include an additional State government tier, between Local and State Governments and known as Disaster Districts, to enable a more efficient and effective operational service delivery in support of local communities.

Queensland's arrangements complement and contribute to the development of disaster management strategic policy and planning at the national level. Queensland is represented on a range of national committees responsible for ensuring cooperation and coordination of disaster management initiatives across Australia. Examples of these forums are the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM) which considers high-level policy issues and the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC). The AEMC is made up of senior government officials and progresses strategic initiatives. National, state, functional agency and threat-specific plans have been developed for natural and non-natural hazards and disasters.

The disaster management arrangements in Queensland are made up of several key management and coordination structures through which the functions of disaster management for Queensland are achieved.

The principal structures that make up Queensland's disaster management arrangements are:

- disaster management groups operating at local, district and state levels and which are responsible for the planning, organisation, co-ordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate/prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters;

- co-ordination centres at local, district and state levels that support disaster management groups in co-ordinating information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations;

- state government functional agencies through which the functions and responsibilities of the state government in relation to disaster management are managed and co-ordinated; and

- state government threat-specific agencies responsible for the management and co-ordination of combating threats.

Queensland disaster management arrangements

Local Government

The functions of a local government under the DM Act are to:

- ensure it has a disaster response capability (as outlined under s80 (2) of the DM Act);
- approve its local disaster management plan prepared under part 3 of the DM Act;
- ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) for the Disaster District in which its area is situated;
- perform other functions given to the local government under this Act.

Local government is best situated to provide first-hand knowledge and understanding of social, economic, infrastructure and environmental issues within their respective communities. This also means local government are also ideally placed to support their community from a disaster management perspective. This is achieved through the respective Local Disaster Management Group (Local Group).

Local Disaster Management Groups

Local Groups are established to support local government disaster management activities. The Local Group is supported by the relevant District Group if and when disaster management activities exceed the capacity of a Local Group and for when the coordination of more than one local government is required.

The functions of the Local Group include (but are not limited to*):

- develop, regularly review and assess effective disaster management;
- assist local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan;
- ensuring the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovery from a disaster;
- identify, and co-ordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations at the local level;
- manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State Group; and
- ensuring disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State Group's SPF for disaster management for the State;

Refer to s30 of the DM Act for a complete list of functions of the Local Group

The Mayor, or another elected member of the council, is the chairperson of the Local Group. Local Groups play a key role in the disaster management arrangements for Queensland and are best placed to decide what resources are needed, when they are needed and how best to apply such resources so as to minimise hardship and suffering.

State Government

Disaster District Management Groups

Established under the DM Act; District Groups comprise representatives from regionally based Queensland government agencies which can provide and coordinate whole-of-government support and resource gap assistance to disaster-stricken communities. The District Groups perform a 'middle management' function within the disaster management arrangements by providing co-ordinated state government support when requested by Local Groups on behalf of local governments.

The District Groups carry out a number of functions relating to disaster management. The primary functions are to:

- ensure the disaster management and disaster operations in the Disaster District are consistent with the State Group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the state; and to
- develop effective disaster management for the district, including a district disaster management plan and to regularly review and assess disaster management arrangements.
- ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

District Disaster Co-ordinator (DDC)

The Chair of the District Group is the DDC and is responsible to:

- manage and coordinate the business of the District Group;
- ensure, as far as practicable, that the District Group performs its functions;
- co-ordinate disaster operations in the Disaster District for the District Group; and
- report regularly to the State Disaster Management Group (State Group) on the performance of the District Group.

The DDC may, with the approval of the Minister for Emergency Services, declare a disaster situation for part or all of a Disaster District, enabling specific powers under the DM Act to be exercised.

The Police Officer-in Charge in each Disaster District has been appointed by Governor-in-Council as the DDC. In respect to Brisbane, the Superintendent, Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch is the DDC for Brisbane District.

It should also be noted that, when serving in the capacity of DDC, the individual is no longer functioning as a Police Officer but as an Officer appointed under the DM Act. Another Police Officer will be appointed to carry out their police duties where required.

State Disaster Management Group

The State Group was established under the DM Act, which forms the legislative basis for disaster management activities across all levels of government in Queensland and its disaster management arrangements. The State Group is the peak disaster management policy and decision-making body in Queensland and is directly responsible for outcomes to the Premier. Under the DM Act, the main functions of the State Group are to:

- develop a strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;
- ensure an effective disaster management system is developed and implemented for the State;
- ensure effective arrangements between the state and the Australian Government on matters relating to effective disaster management are established and maintained;
- identify resources within and outside the state that may be used for disaster response operations;
- provide reports and make recommendations to the Minister about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations; and
- prepare a State Disaster Management Plan.

The State Group is comprised of the Chief Executives of state government participating departments and an Executive Officer, appointed by the Governor-in-Council.

From time to time the State Group may invite participants from a range of entities to participate in the business of the group in an advisory capacity on an 'ad hoc' basis. These advisors may be drawn from:

- additional government agencies (federal, state, local);
- government owned corporations;
- non-government organisations; and
- commerce and industry.

The appointment of additional advisors to the State Group is regularly reviewed to reflect current government priorities and the disaster management arrangements for Queensland.

The State Group is further supported by the State Disaster Co-ordination Group (SDCG) and the State Disaster Mitigation Committee (SDMC), which are comprised of representatives from threat specific and functional agencies; and (by invitation) industry and commerce and non-government organisations.

Functional arrangements

- To provide for the effective co-ordination of state-level capabilities in disaster management, Queensland has adopted the concept of 'functional agencies'. Each functional agency is responsible to the State Group for the provision of specific state government services, expertise and support, as needed, to local communities or to the Queensland Government prior to, during and after disaster events.

- Functional agencies are nominated on the basis of machinery of government agency roles. The specific requirements for each function are outlined in the State Plan and agency functional plans. The allocation of functional responsibilities to government agencies is outlined in the following table:

Function	Agency
▪ Building and engineering services	Department of Public Works
▪ Communications infrastructure	Department of Public Works
▪ Community recovery	Department of Communities
▪ Co-ordination of the disaster management system in Queensland	Department of Emergency Services through Emergency Management Queensland
▪ Dam safety/flooding	Department of Natural Resources and Water
▪ Electricity/fuel/gas supply	Department of Mines and Energy
▪ Emergency supply	Department of Public Works
▪ Health	Queensland Health
▪ Transport and transport engineering	Queensland Transport

Threat-specific arrangements

- In addition to functional agency responsibilities, Queensland has identified a number of specific potential threats where government departments and agencies have a designated role. These agencies are allocated responsibility to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from the specific threats based on agency core business.

- The disaster management arrangements in Queensland could be activated to co-ordinate resources in support of agency operations, as required, and is responsible for the management of the wider consequences of a specific threat under arrangements described above.

- The current allocation of threat-specific responsibilities to government departments is outlined below:

Threat	Agency
• Biological	Queensland Health
• Bushfire	Department of Emergency Services through Rural Operations, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
• Chemical	Department of Emergency Services through Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
• Environmental	Environmental Protection Agency
• Exotic/aquatic animal disease • Plant disease	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
• Major Crime	Queensland Police Service
• Oil spill at sea	Queensland Transport through Maritime Safety Queensland
• Pandemic influenza	Queensland Health
• Radiological	Queensland Health

Response Arrangements

In Queensland activation of the disaster management arrangements can occur when there is a need for:

- operational co-ordination to monitor potential threats or response operations;
- operational co-ordination to support response operations being conducted by a designated agency or agencies;
- co-ordination of resources in support of disaster response and recovery operations at local government or district level; or
- state-wide disaster response and recovery operations.

Co-ordination Arrangements

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements are designed to be flexible in responding to an event whilst retaining communication links between all levels of the system. Disaster Co-ordination Centres at the local, district and state levels provide this link and are activated as the need arises to co-ordinate resources and provide support. These Disaster Co-ordination Centres are known as the:

- Local Disaster Co-ordination Centre (LDCC) – local level;
- District Disaster Co-ordination Centre (DDCC) – district level
- State Disaster Co-ordination Centre (SDCC) – state level; and the
- Incident Management Facility (IMF) – national level

At **local** and **district** levels, activation can be initiated by the Chair of a Local, District or the State Group. At **state** level, initiation of the activation of the disaster management system can be made through either the Chair or Executive Officer of the State Group.

Activation at state level is normally triggered by activation at Disaster District level or a severe impact at a local level.

Declaration of a Disaster Situation

During significant events, a DDC may require additional authority or powers to manage the consequences of a disaster event (eg; if there is a need to *direct* an area to be evacuated). In these cases a disaster situation may be declared. This request is managed through the SDCC. A declaration would usually only be required if the DDC or a declared disaster officer required the additional powers that a *declaration* would provide. It is important to note that it is not necessary to declare a disaster situation to activate the disaster management arrangements or to obtain financial assistance through established disaster relief arrangements.

The Premier and the Minister for Emergency Service may also declare a disaster situation for the state, or a part of the state. Again, this would occur to allow a DDC or a declared disaster officer to exercise declared disaster powers.

Full details of the additional powers provided during a disaster situation are contained in the DM Act.

Consequence Management

In addition to the concepts outlined above the term 'consequence management' also helps to define the environment of disaster management. In the event of a large scale incident there are likely to be significant community consequences. These consequences may include impacts on individuals, communities, the economy and/or the environment and may be short or long term in nature.

Consequence management:

- provides for appropriate and timely support to communities, or elements of communities, who suffer or may suffer hardship as a result of disasters or large scale events; and
- involves key response and recovery elements of the disaster management arrangements for Queensland.

Disaster Recovery

Disaster recovery is the co-ordinated process of supporting affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being. The following four elements of disaster recovery are highly inter-dependent:

• **Community Recovery**	includes recovery as it relates to the provision of personal support and information, psychological services, temporary accommodation (not evacuation centres), financial assistance to meet immediate individual needs and respond to uninsured household loss and damage, and assistance for communities severely affected by a natural disaster to restore social networks, functioning and community facilities.
• **Infrastructure Recovery**	includes recovery as it relates to government structures, transport, essential services and communications.
• **Environmental Recovery**	includes recovery as it relates to land management, national parks, coastal erosion, flora and fauna.
• **Economic Recovery**	includes recovery as it relates to business and industry impact and impact on employment and the availability of goods and services within the affected community. It also relates to reinstating the capacity for the export of goods and services from the region.

Planning for recovery is integral to preparing for disasters and is not simply a post-disaster consideration. Disaster recovery acknowledges the existing environment and is centred on the impacted community, which is broadly defined and includes groups linked by location, industry, culture, impact, interest, etc.

Applying these 'recovery elements to disaster recovery involves a variety of organisations and individuals across government, non-government and the community. To support operational needs a number of state agencies have been nominated against specific functional areas, however specific recovery structures may be developed by the Queensland government during an event.

Emergency Management Queensland

A division of DES, Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) co-ordinates disaster management for the state and contributes to a safer, more resilient and sustainable communities through:

- leading and co-ordinating activities undertaken before, during and after a disaster or emergency to minimise adverse community impacts;

- response and recovery services including SES volunteers, ESUs, EMQ Helicopter Rescue, state disaster response management;

- disaster awareness and hazard reduction services including community safety and education programmes and the Emergency Services Cadets; and

- supporting volunteer marine rescue organisations, including Surf Life Saving Queensland, as well as contract and community helicopter search and rescue providers.

EMQ provides staff to support the State Group to co-ordinate disaster management in conjunction with functional agencies for the 'presenting' hazard and risks.

The Division delivers its services from the emergency services headquarters at Kedron and from regional and area offices, EMQ helicopter rescue air bases (and regional community air bases) and numerous volunteer locations.

EMQ continues to take the lead for the state in the coordination of whole-of-government emergency management in Queensland.

Telephone 132 500

To further enhance emergency service responsiveness, a national 132 500 contact telephone number for the SES has been introduced to Queensland as the primary point of contact for flood and storm emergencies. This telephone number provides a co-ordinated and prioritised response by the SES to the community and has proven invaluable in supporting Queenslanders impacted by natural disasters.

Australian Government

Prime responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment rests with the States and Territories. However, the Australian Government is committed to supporting States and Territories in developing their capacity for dealing with emergencies and disasters and provides physical assistance to requesting States or Territories when they cannot reasonably cope during an emergency. Under Australia's Constitution the Australian Government is allocated responsibility for external affairs, including the provision of humanitarian assistance for emergency and refugee relief overseas.

The Federal Attorney-General is responsible for disaster-related matters. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is nominated as the agency responsible for planning and co-ordinating Australian Government physical assistance to the States and Territories under the *Australian Government Disaster Response Plan* (COMDISPLAN). Co-ordination of these functions is carried out from the national Incident Management Facility (IMF).

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)

The State/Commonwealth NDRRA are the prime mechanisms utilised by the Queensland Government to provide post disaster relief and recovery assistance to communities affected by any one or combination of the following natural disasters: cyclone, storm, flood, bushfire, earthquake, storm surge, tsunami, tornado, meteorite strike, and landslide (contingent upon another event occurring).

Once activated, NDRRA provides for relief and recovery assistance in the following areas (but not limited to):

NDRRA Relief Measure	Administering Agency
Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme: • Emergent Assistance – *for individuals and families who need financial assistance to meet their basic needs in the first few days after a disaster.* • Essential Household Contents Grant – *means tested grant to assist with the replacement or repair of uninsured essential household contents.* • Structural Assistance Grant – *means tested grant to assist with the cost of repairing an uninsured, owner-occupied residence including caravans, to a safe and habitable condition. The dwelling must be the property owner's sole place of residence at the time of the natural disaster.*	Department of Communities Further Information: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/community-recovery/publications/disaster-relief.html
Counter Disaster Operations - *Extraordinary measures to alleviate community hardship including transportation, evacuation, disaster co-ordination, and emergent public health and safety matters* .	Emergency Management Queensland Further information: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/support
Restoration of Public Assets: • Local governments and community councils • River Improvement Trusts • State government departments	Department of Public Works Department of Local Government, Sport & Recreation Department of Natural Resources & Water Department of Emergency Services
Concessional loans assistance to disaster affected primary producers and small business enterprises	QRAA Further information: http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au/
Freight subsidies scheme for primary producers - *tailored to address specific needs following a disaster even*t	Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries Further information: www.dpi.qld.gov.au

These arrangements provide relief measures based on a cost sharing formula (between the Queensland and Australian Governments) and are designed to help those within the community who do not have the resources to provide for their own recovery.

Assistance is not provided as compensation for damage/losses sustained or as a disincentive to self-help by way of commercial insurance and/or other appropriate disaster mitigation strategies.   Funding is also provided to government agencies and local government to facilitate the restoration of public infrastructure.

Non-natural disasters are not eligible for NDRRA funding. If expenditure following an exceptional technological disaster (ie chemical, toxic gas/smoke cloud, aircraft impact, essential service or infrastructure failure etc) is beyond the financial capacity of the responsible authority, an approach would need to be made to the Queensland government for 'special' funding.

State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

Certain natural and non-natural disasters are ineligible for State/Commonwealth NDRRA funding, but this may allow for the state funded SDRA to be activated. As an 'all hazards' programme, the SDRA is able to address a far wider range of disaster events than the NDRRA.

The purpose of SDRA is to address personal hardship and community response needs for disaster events where the NDRRA is unable to be activated. The protection, emergency repairs and restoration of state and local government assets are not eligible for assistance under the SDRA. Disaster relief assistance scheme and counter-disaster operations are the only relief measures available under the SDRA.

Further Information

Elements of the
Queensland Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

Background: The COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)* identified the need for a comprehensive, all-hazards, all-agencies approach to disaster management, particularly with the emergence of new threats such as terrorism and threats of a pandemic. This approach, including the disaster management elements were adopted in the development of the SPF.

Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the state and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. *Disaster Management Act 2003, s13(1)*
Disaster management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster. *Disaster Management Act 2003, s14*
Disaster mitigation	The means taken in advance of, or after, a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment. COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Disaster preparedness	Arrangements that ensure that, should an emergency occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed. COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Disaster research	May be broadly understood as a systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem. COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area. *Disaster Management Act 2003, S80(2)*
Disaster response	Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised. *(COAG report Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Disaster relief and recovery	Disaster relief is the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional social, economic, physical wellbeing. COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Disaster risk assessment	The process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria. COAG report *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements (2002)*
Policy and governance	Policy and governance elements ensure clear direction of disaster management priorities, resource allocation and accountability through sound performance management and risk management for the whole disaster management system.

Useful web sites

- **Australian Bureau of Meteorology**
  http://www.bom.gov.au

- **Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases**
  http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aahc/index.cfm?E9711767-B85D-D391-45FC-CDBC07BD1CD4

- **Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVET PLAN)**
  http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/aquatic/aquavetplan

- **Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANT PLAN):**
  http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/project_documents/display_document.asp?ID=395&category=20

- *Community safety – Get Prepared*
  www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/getprepared.asp

- *Disaster Management Act 2003*
  http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2003/03AC091.pdf

- **Disaster management arrangements in Queensland**
  www.disaster.gov.au and www.emergency.qld.gov.au

- **Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework**
  www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications

- **Emergency Management Australia**
  http://www.ema.gov.au/

- **Emergency Management Queensland**
  http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/

- **Emergency Service Units**
  www.emergency.qld.gov.au/esu

- **National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic**
  http://www.dpmc.gov.au/publications/pandemic/index.cfm

- **Queensland Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements**
  http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/Page/Communities_Natural_Disasters_NDRRA_Natural_Disaster_Relief_and_Recovery_Arrangements_(NDRRA)

- **Standard Emergency Warning Signal**
  www.disaster.qld.gov.au/disasters/warning.asp

- **State Disaster Management Group Annual Reports**
  http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/

- **State Emergency Services**
  www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses

Acronyms used in this document

AEMC	Australian Emergency Management Committee
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COMDISPLAN	*Australian Government Disaster Response Plan*
DDC	District Disaster Co-ordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Co-ordination Centre
DES	Department of Emergency Services
District Group	District Disaster Management Group
DM Act	*Disaster Management Act 2003*
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESC	Environmental Scientific Co-ordinator
ESUs	Emergency Service Units
IMF	Incident Management Facility
IMF	Incident Management Facility
LDCC	Local Disaster Co-ordination Centre
Local Group	Local Disaster Management Group
MCPEM	Ministerial Council for Police & Emergency Management
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NGOs	non-government organisations
PPRR	prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
SDCC	State Disaster Co-ordination Centre
SDCG	State Disaster Co-ordination Group
SDMC	State Disaster Mitigation Committee
SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
SES	State Emergency Service
SPF	Queensland Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework
State Group	State Disaster Management Group