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Does anyone have a crystal ball? Shifting mindsets for the future of Queensland disaster management

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Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency



Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience





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Office of the IGEM

Provides Queensland Government and the community with assurance in our disaster management arrangements by:

Implementing the
*Standard for Disaster
Management in
Queensland.*

Reviewing and assessing
the effectiveness of
disaster management.

Bringing together the
disaster management
sector to focus collective
efforts on enhancing
capability.

Office functions are prescribed in the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Office of the Inspector-General of **Emergency Management**

Thinking about futures





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Ideas for action – Governance

- Strategic plans specific how they will contribute to, and budget for, disaster management as part of their core business
- Create a coordinating body with a mandate for year-round disaster management, including preparedness and resilience
- Establish a monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement framework to track progress and adapt strategies as required
- Formally recognise disaster management as a profession

Ideas for action – Community

- Build and fund social capital
- Engage local Futures think tanks to find locally led solutions
- Implement community-focused engagement, education and exercising
- Establish feedback loops, ensuring community voices shape policy, funding, and implementation
- Support volunteer work and encourage employers to support volunteer release programs through targeted business incentivisation measures.

Ideas for action – Policy and planning

- Review emergency management plans with industry, community, and all levels of government
- Review of legislation with a renewed focus on resilience and prevention
- Mandate disaster planning responsibilities in all government departments, supported by funding and reporting requirements
- Establish evaluation mechanisms to track policy impact and adapt to emerging risks

Ideas for action – Communications

- Develop risk maps, fact sheets, and preparedness packs tailored to hyper-local contexts
- Better fund public education campaigns, designed with media partners and communities
- Establish a regulated central source of truth
- Create accountability mechanisms for private sector communications during disasters.

Ideas for action – Technology

- Develop a statewide disaster intelligence platform, integrating AI, predictive analytics, and community data
- Create technology literacy programs for communities
- Establish public-private innovation hubs to pilot and scale disaster tech solutions
- Ensure statewide digital connectivity by investing in reliable infrastructure and exploring solutions to support remote and underserved communities

Ideas for action – Infrastructure

- Invest in resilient communications infrastructure
- Establish public-private partnerships to co-fund and co-design infrastructure solutions
- Develop statewide infrastructure resilience standards
- Create a supply chain resilience strategy
- Support community-driven mitigation infrastructure (e.g. water tanks to reduce fire hazard risk)

Ideas for action – Private sector

- Introduce regulatory and financial incentives that reward businesses for investing in resilience
- Promote sustainability and social reporting requirements, encouraging transparency and accountability in disaster-related practices
- Recognise and support private sector-led partnerships, particularly those that drive innovation in housing, infrastructure, and supply chains.
- Investigate and capture lessons from private sector involvement with communities.

Ideas for action – Border-free approach

- Work across borders to gather themes, share lessons, align strategies, coordinate efforts and manage complex risks.
- Fund cross-jurisdictional initiatives that promote collaboration in infrastructure, technology, and workforce
- Develop a shared national strategic vision
- Establish national decision-making arrangements, enabling collaboration across sectors (e.g. energy and telecommunications).

Inspector-General of **Emergency Management**

How will we know we are successful?

- ✓ A cohesive, whole of system approach with Queenslanders at the centre
- ✓ Disaster management as business as usual
- ✓ Investment in a strategic foresight capability
- ✓ A futures disaster strategy with long-term commitment
- ✓ Comprehensive disaster management training is delivered more broadly
- ✓ Strong public trust and capability to manage mis- and disinformation
- ✓ Disaster management workforce has succession planning and is agile and adaptive
- ✓ Capabilities for key roles to better prevent and prepare for risks are identified and developed
- ✓ Prevention and preparedness are co-designed with community, industry and advocates
- ✓ Deep understanding of root causes of vulnerability for at risk communities.

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