



Disaster Management  
Amendment Bill 2014  
Submission 002

19 September 2014

The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

[lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: *Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014 (the Bill)***

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) has been a consistent and willing supporter of the Queensland Disaster Management System and has been an active participant under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.

The LGAQ recognises the importance of local government in providing the leadership of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) in their council area to develop and implement effective Local Disaster Management Plans. Including:

- Developing an understanding of hazards most likely to occur and identifying the elements in the community that may be impacted by the hazard;
- Assessing and analysing the likelihood and consequences of these risks to enable development of appropriate mitigation strategies and identification of residual risks to the community;
- Leading the development of local strategies to enable meaningful development of local community resilience;
- Developing systems and strategies to engage, inform and alert the local community, visitors, travellers and the broader community to any hazard or imminent events; and
- Maintaining a local response capacity with a capability of meeting likely local needs.

Local government is recognised as the cornerstone of Queensland's disaster management arrangements. The LGAQ acknowledges and recognises the work of councils as the agency which is there "before, during and after" every event.

The Association remains committed to providing disaster management support, advice and services directly to local governments and will continue to advocate for strategies to ensure councils - and the LDMG - receive appropriate support, information and resources – before, during and after any events.

**Issues for consideration by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**

The merging of the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee (DMCC) and the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) to create a new Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) is silent in relation to the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG).

The LGAQ seeks clarification of the disaster planning, operational response and long term recovery functions the SDCG has previously undertaken. While the LGAQ recognises that the SDCG is not established under the Disaster Management Act (the DM Act), without the direction of the SDMG it is unclear how the SDCG will continue to function as an operational



support of the overall state system and particularly the coordination of state support for Local Disaster Management Groups in the affected areas.

In relation to the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee (DMCC) membership, the LGAQ has previously had the functional role and responsibility detailed in the State Disaster Management Plan (and the Terms of Reference of the SDMG) of:

- Advocating on behalf of local governments at the State level; and
- Providing representation and facilitate collaboration with (and between) local governments.

The LGAQ seeks clarity on how these roles will be undertaken at the DMCC, both during planning and operational periods of activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hoffman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Hoffman PSM  
GENERAL MANAGER – ADVOCACY