



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Wednesday, 14 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Incident Management System Trial

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.16 am): Local governments are a key part of Queensland's Disaster Management System so a close working relationship between them and state agencies is essential. An example of this collaboration is a trial later this month of a customised Australasian Inter-Agency Incident Management System, colloquially known as AIIMS, specifically tailored to local government requirements.

Emergency Management Queensland has worked with the Gold Coast City Council to adapt the system for local government use. This system allows for a quick and easy response to any disaster and is flexible in scale so that it can be readily adapted to any size operation, which is obviously a strong advantage when dealing with disasters. The trial will be run on the Gold Coast and when it is done EMQ will look at rolling it out to other councils.

This month's experience with an unpredictable Cyclone Odette showed the importance of planning and training for large scale disasters across multiple districts. Our Emergency Services disaster management team is always working to help make sure that communities are fully prepared and resilient and that the statewide disaster response is a consistent model. This ensures communities affected by a disaster are well placed to respond locally, that their response is the best for that community and if outside personnel are required they can easily fit into any local arrangements.

Once trained with an incident management system, emergency response staff can effectively work in any similar set-up in any part of Australia and New Zealand during a range of emergency situations. This means that any community or region that requires outside assistance can call on trained personnel who can be readily deployed and, of course, vice versa, with Queensland trained personnel being able to assist in any region or state in Australia and New Zealand.

This sort of collaborative approach to disaster management training is all about improving council operations at a local level and will help ensure a well-coordinated and effective community response in the event of any disaster.