




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Floods, IGEM Report

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): Queensland's disaster management and emergency response frameworks are among the best in the world. This is not only because of our dedicated people—the officers, volunteers and community members who contribute to our emergency response in the face of natural disaster—but so too because of our government's commitment to continual improvement, reflection and review. Today I table the Inspector-General Emergency Management review report and the government response in relation to this year's South-East Queensland flood event.

Tabled paper: Inspector-General Emergency Management: Report 1: 2022-2023—South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, February to March 2022 Review [1608](#).

Tabled paper: Inspector-General Emergency Management: Report 1: 2022-2023—South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, February to March 2022 Review—Government response [1609](#).

The IGEM is recognised as the gold standard. It supports continual reflection, continual review and continual improvement of our emergency management systems, and of course the government is always committed to doing all it can to constantly upgrade and improve our approach to disaster management and do whatever we can to ensure we are best placed to respond to any future challenges.

The review report makes 19 recommendations which cover a range of areas of focus including guidance regarding flood risk and the use of the emergency alert system by responsible agencies; identifying options for strengthening the flood warning network; providing additional instructional support, training and exercise for local government users of the emergency alert system; and increasing subscription of local government opt-in information services, among other things. The Inspector-General Emergency Management report notes that the Wivenhoe Dam was well managed throughout the event and that the dam safety regulatory system is mature. The report also reflects on examples of delays in emergency alerts being issued in some local government areas. This was due to a number of factors including national system constraints and delays in processing requests from local government agencies due to messaging and targeting inaccuracies.

It is encouraging that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has already reached out to the national administrators of the national alert system to seek its support in improving the capacity of the national system for the future. In addition, there are opportunities around improving processes relating to timings of messaging sequences to ensure highest priority messages are sent with urgency. The review pointed to a lack of training and awareness with some local government staff who the Inspector-General Emergency Management found were not aware of processes of the emergency alert system. This resulted in delays with emergency alert requests and contributed to a delay in residents

receiving alerts. However, it should be said that there are a substantial number of local governments that have mature processes in place and that are already well versed in system requirements relating to emergency alerts.

While Queensland Fire and Emergency Services develops and facilitates training programs for local governments, not all local government stakeholders have always taken up these training opportunities. To encourage uptake, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will continue to offer these training opportunities to local governments. I am advised Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has commenced implementation on all of the recommendations and has engaged with local governments already through consultative forums and educational workshops to identify areas for improvement.

I am also advised that all recommendations are on track for completion by the due dates. The government takes the safety of all Queenslanders extremely seriously and is committed to continually improving systems to ensure emergency and disaster response is best placed for the future. I commend the Inspector-General Emergency Management and his team on his report and I commend the report to the House and all Queenslanders.