

Question on Notice
No. 1050
Asked on Thursday 2 September 2004

MS STONE asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

How is the State Government assisting local councils to plan for the protection and safety of their communities through counter-terrorism strategies?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question and am pleased to advise that I recently launched the *Local Government Counter-Terrorism Risk Management Kit* at the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference in Mackay on 1 September 2004.

The kit was developed through extensive consultation with local governments, the Queensland Government and other key stakeholders.

It is the outcome of a joint counter-terrorism project between the Queensland Government and LGAQ. The Premier announced the establishment of the project at the previous LGAQ annual conference in Cairns in September 2003.

The project aims to develop local governments' capacity to undertake counter-terrorism and infrastructure security risk management assessments and integrate counter-terrorism considerations into existing disaster management arrangements.

Local Disaster Management Groups should use the kit with input from key stakeholders including Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service, major industries and peak bodies, owners and operators of critical infrastructure and mass gathering venues and major event organisers.

The systematic process this kit provides is based on the risk management process in *Australian Standard and New Zealand Standard 4360* (AS/NZS 4360:1999). The kit focuses at a strategic overview level and applies the judgments and experience of users with broad local knowledge. Users are not expected to have counter-terrorism expertise to complete the steps in this kit.

The kit is made up of four sections – an outline of Australia's security environment, a workbook, worksheets and a training manual. The first section outlines the security situation in Australia. It helps users of the kit understand potential terrorism threats and incidences.

The workbook provides the primary information of the kit and consists of three phases.

The first phase of the workbook guides local governments in developing an agreed community, disaster and risk context. Much of the detail is already available for many local

governments – for example, information developed as a result of disaster management planning guidelines under the Queensland *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The second phase focuses on identifying potential security targets within the local government area. It assesses local governments' preparedness to manage community consequences of a security related incident. This phase also evaluates possible treatment options for the most likely incidents.

The third phase compares the community's security requirements with existing disaster management arrangements. This phase covers the development of action plans to integrate security and disaster management arrangements and closes any gaps in existing plans. This phase also includes the establishment of arrangements to monitor, review and update security and disaster management plans.

Finally, training material is provided as a stand-alone section of the kit to support the introduction of local government officers to the kit and its application. This material includes a training session outline, notes for facilitators and supporting visual aids.

Copies of the kit are being distributed to local governments this month. The kit will also be available on the LGAQ website. Implementation workshops will be conducted at regional and district levels to help local governments understand and apply the kit.