

Question on Notice
No. 447
Asked on Thursday 11 March 2010

MR DOWLING asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent tsunami alert —

How will an evacuation be carried out with regard to the areas of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and Redlands coastal communities?

Where would the residents be temporarily housed once evacuated?

ANSWER:

Queensland leads the way in preparing for natural disasters. The Bligh Government routinely plans and prepares for natural disasters in conjunction with local governments including the Redlands City Council. This includes boosting the resilience of communities through the development of local disaster management plans.

In response to the Member's question, I can advise:

a) Evacuations in response to a tsunami alert, would be carried out under the auspices of "*The Redland City Council Local Disaster Management Plan Volume 8 – Evacuation*", which details the contingencies to be reviewed when determining an evacuation within the Redland City boundary which includes the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

A decision to evacuate will be under the authority of either the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, by the District Disaster Coordinator if a disaster situation has been declared or is imminent; or under the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*, by a commissioned Queensland Police Service Officer.

In either situation, evacuation may be immediate and without warning, or have been the subject of earlier warnings. It may involve a local evacuation, within a suburb or area, or an evacuation to higher ground on an island, or an external evacuation from an island to the mainland. It may be voluntary or managed by authorities.

Each Southern Moreton Bay island has a designated Island Evacuation Coordinator whose responsibility is to coordinate a move to higher ground where appropriate or evacuate off an island if necessary.

The warning systems which would be used for the Redlands community would depend on the threat and the time available and include the use of:

- Emergency Alert, a national telephone based warning system;
- ABC Radio, and other commercial radio stations;
- Television;
- Media releases to local media (Bayside Bulletin, Redland Times, Bay FM);
- Posting of notices at major commuter terminals (e.g. ferry terminals, ferries and barges);

- Door-knocks by SES and community groups;
- Volunteer Marine Rescue and QPS Water Police.

b) “*The Redland City Council Local Disaster Management Plan Volume 8 – Evacuation*”, contains a list of potential evacuation centre facilities on higher ground on the islands. Council has also prepared a list of hotels, community facilities, resorts and restaurants on the mainland which are suitable for use in an evacuation.

In the event that these are not sufficient to cater for the number of people evacuated, support would be requested through the Brisbane District Disaster Management Group.

The Department of Community Safety will continue to boost the safety of Queensland communities by undertaking preparedness activities to support disaster management.