

SCHEDULE 1

THE CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Invitation to Offer ES-2549 - Statement of Requirements

**Review of Disaster Management
Legislation & Policy in
Queensland**

1. Background

Disaster Management in Queensland is governed by the Disaster Management Act 2003. The Act provides a framework for the structures and operational policies to deal with arrangements and issues before during and after disaster events.

This act is supported by the State Disaster Management Plan and the Strategic Management Policy Framework.

A foundation tenet of the Act is that assistance required for disaster events escalates from the bottom up. That is matters are dealt with at the local government level until capacity or capability is exceeded, at which time requests for assistance are made by the Local Disaster Management Group to the District level – which in turn may make requests for assistance to State level.

The State level (through the State Disaster Management Group) is supported by an Executive Officer and the resources of Emergency Management Queensland.

During the events associated with Tropical Cyclone Hamish contingency planning for the mass evacuation of up to 4,500 people from Hervey Bay/Bundaberg to Brisbane was undertaken. This activity raised a number of issues around the role of the State in controlling this process. This was in the context of the legislative provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2003, as well as the organisational and logistical considerations needed to ensure a successful outcome.

The issues identified in this evacuation context were broadly consistent with themes and issues around the capacity of the State to “lean forward” in a more proactive manner during disasters. These themes have been identified in reviews of recent disaster events, such as:

- Tropical Cyclone Larry (2006);
- Equine Influenza (2007)
- Charleville/Emerald /Mackay floods (2008);
- Brisbane Storms (2008);
- 2009 monsoonal events including Tropical Cyclones Charlotte, Ellie and Hamish.
- 2009 the ‘Pacific Adventurer’ Oil Spill.

Further, the disaster management system is being called on to assist in a range of significant events that fall within the all-hazards scope of the Disaster Management Act 2003 but are not events traditionally resourced through the disaster management system. Recent examples are Equine Influenza (2007) and The Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill (2009).

2. Purpose / Scope

The Consultant will be required to review the appropriateness of the current disaster management policies and legislation and provide recommendations to improve delivery of efficient, effective and coordinated responses to disasters by the Queensland Government.

This review will include analysis of:

- The efficacy of current disaster management legislation, arrangements and policy
- The effectiveness of chain of command arrangements derived from the current disaster management system, including an assessment of the optimum manner for responsibilities to move from Local, to District to State.
- The events to which the resources of the disaster management system are now being applied

Note: Such analysis must be in the context of the main objective of the Disaster Management Act:

1. To help communities –
 - a. mitigate the potential adverse effects of an event; and
 - b. prepare for managing the effects of an event; and
 - c. effectively respond to, and recover from, a disaster or an emergency situation
2. to provide for effective disaster management for the State;
3. to establish a framework for the management of the State Emergency Service and emergency service units to ensure the effective performance of their functions.

The critical focus for recommendations must be:

- Delivering enhanced outcomes in the areas of speed, efficiency and effectiveness of responses to communities impacted by disaster events
- Meeting the contemporary objectives of government and expectations of the broader community
- Making assessments of:
 - the appropriate resource commitments across the Queensland Government needed to achieve the above;
 - The future capabilities required across the Queensland Government to deliver these recommendations; and
 - the appropriate model for governance and accountability for the Queensland Government.

3. List of Terms, symbols, acronyms

- EMQ – Emergency Management Queensland
- CEO – Chief Executive Officer

4. Relevant documentation

- Disaster Management Act 2003

5. Constraints

Travel is not required as interviews will be conducted by teleconference only.

The review does not include an operational or functional analysis of detailed performance for any one event. A strategic level analysis is required.

The review is not seeking recommendations regarding the overall structure of the disaster management system. Recommendations should relate to enhancements for the improvement of the current arrangements.

6. Objectives / Deliverables / Timeframes

The nominal timeframe for completion of the Review is **four weeks** from the date of commencement.

A review of:

- existing Queensland Government legislation and policy;
- other Australian jurisdiction's legislation;
- existing event review documentation;
- Arrangements and authority for mass evacuations, providing clarity around the authority needed to be responsive to current and emerging risks;
- The analysis can encompass assessment of actions and arrangements taken before, during and after an event;
- Assessment of the events falling within the ambit of "all-hazards" and therefore coordinated through the disaster management system;
- Assessment of the optimum resourcing (numbers and location) needed to give effect to recommendations;
- Interviews with key stakeholders in disaster events as listed in the table following: