



Hon Neil Roberts MP  
Member for Nudgee



Minister for Police, Corrective Services  
and Emergency Services

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**28 SEP 2011**

Senator Mary Jo Fisher  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications  
References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator Fisher

I refer to your email of 23 March 2011, regarding the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry into emergency communications (the Senate Inquiry) and subsequent approval from your office, to provide formal advice pending the release of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry (the QFCI) Interim Report (the report).

As you may be aware, the QFCI released its report on 1 August 2011 containing 175 recommendations (104 which apply to the Queensland Government) to ensure that Queensland is thoroughly prepared for the next wet season. A number of recommendations in the report relate to the Senate Inquiry, specifically matters relating to emergency warning systems, community education and awareness, SMS alerts, communication networks, disaster management and response.

My departments (Department of Community Safety and the Queensland Police Service) provided input into the QFCI's Inquiry by way of agency submissions. For your reference and input into the Senate Inquiry, these submissions are available on the QFCI's website at [www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au/submissions](http://www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au/submissions).

The Queensland Government released its response to the QFCI's report (the response) on 23 August 2011. A copy of the response is attached for your consideration. The response accepts, and agrees to implement all of the QFCI's recommendations relevant to the Queensland Government including:

- development of a protocol to coordinate the effective participation of local and district disaster management groups in state teleconferences;

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- investigation into a state-wide Government Wireless Network offering a digital radio and wireless data environment to support frontline personnel;
- improvements to existing communications systems and protocols to better support in-field incident management for large events;
- recent investment of \$4.2M to develop an All Hazards Information Management System to coordinate the collection and dissemination of disaster management information; and
- development of standard messages templates for emergency alerts for use by all disaster management groups.

In addition, the response reaffirms the Queensland Government's commitment to working with local governments to improve warning systems and communications in the event of a natural disaster.

The QFCI is expected to release its final report in February 2012. I anticipate that the final report will contain further recommendations related to the Senate Inquiry which the Queensland Government will need to consider.

I recognise the important contribution of the Senate Inquiry into the capacity of communication networks and emergency warning systems to deal with emergencies and natural disasters and look forward to receiving a copy of the Senate Inquiry's report.

Yours sincerely

Neil Roberts MP  
**Minister for Police, Corrective Services  
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