1. On 14 December 2020, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services announced that an independent review into the capability and funding model of Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) would be undertaken.
2. The Independent Review has examined the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the department, including structure and funding in relation to its core services and associated volunteer entities.
3. The Independent Review considered a number of smaller-focussed reviews in relation to specific agencies and services under the QFES umbrella, such as the State Emergency Service (SES) and volunteer marine rescue services of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland.
4. The Review also conducted analysis of in excess of 200 documents provided by QFES and stakeholders, held formal consultations with over 50 representatives from 26 key stakeholder groups, including government, industrial bodies and emergency volunteer organisations, and reviewed 51 submissions.
5. The Independent Review made 19 recommendations, of which the Queensland Government has accepted in principle 18 recommendations under the key themes of: function and structure; culture; efficiency and funding; and sustainability.
6. Machinery of Government changes will be implemented, with the SES, marine rescue services and some disaster management functions to transition to the Queensland Police Service. A dedicated focused and sustainable fire entity will be established encompassing the Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service.
7. To support implementation of the Independent Review, the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) has been tasked with a review of Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements, to be finalised prior to the transition of any disaster management functions between Government agencies.
8. Cabinet noted the independent reviews conducted on behalf of the QFES, including the 2019 Review into Volunteer Marine Rescue Organisations in Queensland (Blue Water Review Report), the 2020 SES Review - Sustaining the SES – Partnering for Change (SES Review Report), and the 2021 Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Independent Review Report).
9. Cabinet approved the Queensland Government Statement of Response to the Independent Review of QFES.
10. Cabinet approved release of the Independent Review Report, the SES Review Report, Blue Water Review Report and the Queensland Government Statement of Response to the Independent Review of QFES.
11. Cabinet approved a Review into Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, to be conducted by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management.
12. *Attachments*:
* [2021 Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Oct/QFESReview/Attachments/Review.PDF)
* [2020 SES Review – *Sustaining the SES – Partnering for Change*](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Oct/QFESReview/Attachments/SESReview.PDF)
* [Review into Volunteer Marine Rescue Organisations in Queensland](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Oct/QFESReview/Attachments/VMRReview.PDF)
* [Queensland Government Statement of Response to the Independent Review of QFES](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Oct/QFESReview/Attachments/Response.PDF)
* [Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements Review Terms of Reference](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Oct/QFESReview/Attachments/ToR.PDF)