

Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 137

made under the

Disaster Management Act 2003

General Outline

Short title

Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025

Authorising law

Sections 34 and 148 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The policy objective of the *Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) is to empower mayors of local governments by appointing them as the chairperson of the relevant Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to ensure optimal communication and information sharing by LDMGs with other agencies and the community is maintained.

This aligns with section 4 of the *Disaster Management Regulation 2014* (DM Regulation), which provides that the Premier and Minister for Veterans is the chairperson of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.

In situations where the mayor of a local government considers appropriate, a mayor may nominate another councillor of the local government to be appointed by the local government to be the LDMG chairperson. If the relevant local government is a combined local government under section 31 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DM Act), a mayor may nominate a councillor from any of the local governments which constitute the combined local government.

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia, having faced about 90 significant natural disasters and weather events in the past decade. The significant impact of these disasters on Queensland's communities emphasises the importance of ensuring Queensland's disaster management arrangements are performing optimally.

Queensland's disaster management arrangements are based on a tiered system that operates at a local, district and State level. At the local level, local governments are responsible for managing events in their local government area through LDMGs which are established by the DM Act.

The role of LDMGs includes ensuring that disaster management and disaster operations are prepared, planned and implemented in their relevant local government areas.

The DM Regulation assists LDMGs to meet their statutory functions through outlining how a LDMG may be appropriately managed. Section 10 of the DM Regulation outlines that the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of a LDMG are the persons appointed by the relevant local government for the LGMG to be the chairperson and deputy chairperson. This section also provides that the chairperson must be a councillor of a local government.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Amendment Regulation achieves the policy objective by amending section 10(2) of the DM Regulation to provide that the chairperson of a LDMG is the mayor of the relevant local government or a nominee of the mayor of the relevant local government who is a councillor of the local government.

In situations where a combined local government has established a LDMG under section 31 of the DM Act, the LDMG chairperson is to be the mayor of any of the local governments comprising the combined local government or a nominee of the mayor of one of the local governments. The nominee must be a councillor of any of the local governments comprising the combined local government.

The amendments to the DM Regulation commence on 1 December 2025 to provide local governments and LDMGs time to ensure they comply with the new requirements.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising laws

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objects of the DM Act which are to help communities mitigate the potential adverse effects of a disaster event; prepare for managing the effects of a disaster event and effectively respond to, and recover from, a disaster or an emergency situation (section 3 of the DM Act).

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The amendments to the DM Regulation will enhance Queensland's disaster management arrangements through ensuring mayors are appointed as LDMG chairpersons, unless a mayor considers it appropriate to nominate another councillor to be appointed.

Any costs to Government of implementing these amendments will be met through standard budgetary processes.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles (FLPs) set out in the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

As the amendments to the DM Regulation relate to the internal administration of a specific disaster management group, community consultation was not undertaken on the amendments. The Local Government Association of Queensland was consulted and support the proposed amendments.

A summary Impact Analysis Statement has been completed that identifies that the amendments are not subject to regulatory impact assessment requirements under the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* as the amendments are regulatory proposals that relate to the internal management of the public sector or are deregulatory in nature.