

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR S.E.S. LOCAL CONTROLLERS

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Inglewood Unit

Goondiwindi Regional Council

1. Structure of SES Units

1.1 The Unit is made up of two groups, Inglewood and Texas. Inglewood having a Local Controller, Deputy Controller and Group Leader and Texas has a Group Leader and Deputy Group Leader. Inglewood has 27 Active Members and Texas has 10 Active Members

1.2 No members of our Unit are employed on a paid, full-time basis by SES, but we have 7 members who are in full-time employment outside SES. In Inglewood 1 is the Deputy Controller, 1 is the Group Leader and the others being between Inglewood & Texas are members. The Local Controller at Inglewood is a part-time worker and the Group Leader at Texas is self employed

1.3 Yes I do believe there is a need for Local Controllers to be employed on a paid, full-time basis. When you have more then one group to look after you don't have the time to spend with the other groups away from your own town like you should be able too. Local Controllers could also work with the Disaster management group on council as part of their employment. There is plenty of work for a Local Controller to be a full-time paid employee. Deputy Controllers and Group Leaders should be employed on a part-time basis. All other member should get a yearly bonus for their time. Other emergency service groups get paid for what they do.

1.4 Having more than one Local Controller in our Local Government Area has no effect what so ever on operations. We have our own area to look after and if need be, call upon the other if backup is needed and both Controller work well together.

2. Readiness for 2010/2011 Floods

2.1 Yes the Inglewood group trains weekly and are prepared for emergencies 24/7. The Texas group trains weekly but are not as advanced with there training, something that is being fixed now.

2.2 Yes the Inglewood group is very fortunate in the number of volunteers we have but the Texas group were short on numbers and Inglewood backed up there.

2.3 Yes both groups had enough equipment and resources

2.4 Yes Inglewood was adequately prepared and Texas coped well with limited numbers.

3. Operations during the 2010/2011 Floods

3.1 Medication runs, evacuations, monitoring water levels, assistance to country energy to get access to power problems to be able to restore power, vehicle retrievals, flood briefing, set up evacuation centre, airstrip runs checking for safety for planes to land bringing patients in to evacuation centre, flood recovery, deploying members to other groups to assist with flooding, deliver extra bedding to hospital, pack up evacuation centre, attempting to get to families to evacuate them from their homes.

4. Command and Control

4.1 Making sure we have competent members doing the jobs and making sure we have an appointed safety officer at each job. Reporting to and collecting information from the relevant authorities. Also completing the correct operational reports and submitting them on time. Monitoring members fatigue levels.

4.2 EMQ Area Director

4.3 132500 Call Centre, Police, QFRS, Ambulance and directly from the public

4.4 Our members are activated by text message

4.5 No

4.6 Yes, up to 6 requests for assistance to be evacuated and these were handed over to QPS for helicopter rescues.

4.7 No

4.8 (a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) Dissatisfied with information coming from the LDMG as they were not informing Inglewood or Texas with updates

(Command and Control continued)

4.9 (a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) N/A

4.10 Limited as my Area Director was out of reach due to flooding, but I had contact with the 2nd Area Director in Toowoomba and the Regional Director was very busy with other areas worse affected than ours

4.11 Work with the QPS monitoring flood waters and having to make our own decisions as the LDMG was not forthcoming with information to either of us.

4.12 Not to my knowledge

4.13 They should be notifying Local Controllers who the EMQ representative is on the LDMG and making sure that the EMQ representative is contacting Local Controllers after meetings so groups know what is happening or predicted to happen in our areas

5. Communications

5.1 Mostly used was mobile phone contact and also SES UHF Radios. Access to an additional mobile phone for the Deputy Controller would have been helpful so members do not have out of pocket expenses, as they do not get reimbursed. Just because you have a Local Controller in the group an additional mobile phone should be supplied to the Deputy Controller.

5.2 No

5.3 No

6. Funding

6.1 Local Government who receive some assistance from EMQ

6.2 Yes, government subsidy scheme. Application process was easy

6.3 No, it is to be used for normal operating for the year, which by the time power, phone, electricity, administration and vehicle running charges are taken out there is nothing left over. Every year I go over budget.

(funding continued)

6.4 No the funding is not adequate to be able to function properly. Extra funding would allow for more exercises to be run allowing for a better prepared unit for emergencies. Having so many members in our group, a dual cab ute is insufficient for getting members to emergencies. Additional funding would also allow for preparations to purchase a second vehicle

6.5 No, but other than giving us our own credit card, which would solve the problem of chasing up council personnel to create purchase orders, this is probably the only way that it can happen.

6.6 (a) Raffles and grants

(b) 40 percent

(c) No

7. Other

7.1 With a yearly incentive for members as you can join the QFRS as an auxiliary and get paid for the hours you train and on activations. SES do as many hours or more than an auxiliary fireman yearly and SES members usually have out of pocket expenses, which don't get reimbursed and there is no incentive for people to join any more. With the economy going the way it is people can't afford these expenses.

7.2 None at this time.