

Keeping Our Mob ClimateSafe

About this initiative

This \$2 million initiative will help remote indigenous communities prepare for the impacts of extreme weather events. It will employ, and provide training for resources and disaster management exercises for Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers who will be based in Indigenous communities. This aims to develop the communities' readiness for disaster events.

The Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers will work directly with Indigenous Councils to:

- enhance disaster management planning and exercises;
- recruit and support volunteers for disaster management roles; and
- encourage community leaders to be involved in disaster planning.

The Keeping Our Mob ClimateSafe package will improve community preparedness through the regular review of disaster management plans, and exercises, to test response to events such as cyclones and floods.

This is one of a range of initiatives within Queensland's revised climate change strategy, *ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland*. The \$196 million Strategy represents the next phase of Queensland's climate change response, and includes investments and policies to further reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions, and support community and industry prepare for, and adapt to, a changing climate.

This initiative will be added to the existing adaptation measures in the *ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007-12* Action Plan, which is the first of its kind in Australia.

Rationale

Coastal and remote Indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of extreme events such as cyclone, storm surge and flooding.

Factors such as distance from major centres, proximity to the coast and the socio-economic status of community members can increase this vulnerability and influence the impact of events.

The Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe package will deliver enhanced services to at risk communities and enhance the safety of these communities.

Outcomes

The Queensland Government will employ Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers to work directly with Indigenous Councils and their communities.

Communities will be better prepared as a result of increased community involvement, better support from Field Officers, improved disaster management planning, and regular exercises to test response to events.

Assessments of the potential to target or tailor existing programs and funding streams to match Indigenous communities' specific needs, circumstances and risk profiles will also be undertaken.

How will it be delivered?

Emergency Management Queensland within the Department of Community Safety will implement the initiative.

The Department of Community Safety will work with Indigenous Councils to roll out Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe over the coming months.

Activities within this initiative will be delivered by Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers who will be located within Indigenous Communities, and will work with Councils and the community to ensure communities are prepared for disasters.

How much will it cost?

The Queensland Government will invest \$2 million over three years to work with Indigenous Councils to implement this initiative.



How will Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities benefit from this program?

Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers will engage directly with Indigenous communities and Councils, ensuring the involvement of community members and leaders in planning and training.

The ability to do this will be enhanced by the location of these officers directly within the communities with whom they are working.

This initiative is also designed to encourage volunteerism in these communities by providing better training and support for volunteers.

What sorts of initiatives will 'Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe' include?

Activities undertaken by Field Officers and community volunteers will focus on disaster planning and will ensure that communities achieve and maintain a higher state of readiness to deal with natural disasters.

Exercises and simulations will test and sharpen this readiness, ensuring that responses to actual events are more effective.

How does this initiative help us to respond to climate change?

It is clear that climate change is affecting the intensity and behaviour of natural hazards, thus changing the risk to the community. In response, communities must adapt by becoming better prepared.

Community adaptation and preparedness are among the most important ways for society to respond to climate change.

What is the next step?

The Department of Community Safety will contact Indigenous Councils to begin implementing Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe.

Key milestones

Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers will be appointed throughout 2010 – 2011.

Disaster Management Plans will be reviewed and developed in 2011 – 2012.

Exercising the Disaster Management Plan will occur throughout 2012 – 2013.

Who will the Government partner with to implement this initiative?

- Local Governments
- Local Disaster Management Groups
- State Emergency Service units
- Rural Fire Brigades

Lead agency details

Department of Community Safety

www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au

