



Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Hearing Date: 25 October 2023

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Tony Pearce

Received Date: 27/12/2023

1. **Samantha RATNAM, page 36**

Question Asked:

I just want to take you to a few findings and recommendations, particularly 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8, which talk about strategic and operational elements aligning more consistently in the future, a lack of clear communication, role clarity, responsibility clarity, governance, this tendency to be reactive and operational as opposed to strategic given the current structure, and also you made a finding of a lack of consultation and a number of improvements. My understanding is post that 2020 review some resources were put in to implement the recommendations. Could you give us an update? Do you have any line of sight over what has happened since that review to implement the observations, findings and recommendations, which are very consistent with what we are hearing?

Response:

Pursuant to sections 64(1)(ba) and 64(1)(ca) of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* the Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) monitors and reports on the implementation of recommendations and agreed actions arising from major reviews and inquiries related to emergency management in Victoria.

In April 2021 the then Minister for Police and Emergency Services wrote to IGEM requesting that it report on the work of departments and agencies in implementing the actions it committed to in response to two IGEM reports:

- *Review of 10 years of reform in Victoria's emergency management sector (10 Year Review)*
- *Inquiry into the 2019–20 Victorian Fire Season – Phase 1 – Community and sector preparedness for and response to the 2019–20 fire season (Phase 1 report)*

Detailed implementation plans were released by government on 30 July 2021. The plans outlined 139 government actions in relation to the two reports, specified the lead department or agency responsible for implementing each action, and included the expected completion dates for some actions.

On 7 October 2021 the State Crisis and Resilience Council (SCRC) endorsed an updated implementation plan which outlined changes to the scope and/or delivery timeframes of selected actions in light of the 2021–22 Victorian State Budget outcomes and the COVID-19 pandemic and June 2021 extreme weather event.

On 30 June 2022 SCRC approved amendments to delivery dates for 20 actions reflecting further delays from the impacts of budget outcomes and resourcing challenges due to emergencies.

IGEM's monitoring is based on the revised June 2022 implementation plan with any further revisions to the scope and delivery dates of actions subject to approval by relevant departments and agencies, in consultation with relevant ministers.

IGEM's most recent 2022 progress report on the implementation of activity arising from the 10 Year Review and Phase 1 Report is available via this [link](#) (also provided at **Attachment A**).

Overall the 2022 progress report found that 92 of the 139 actions committed to in response to the two IGEM reports have now either been completed or closed. Refer to the 2022 progress report for details.

IGEM notes the continuing fiscal and operational pressures on organisations leading implementation of actions. Implementation progress for the 47 actions assessed as in progress in the 2022 progress report – as well as recommendations from the *Inquiry into the 2019–20 Victorian Fire Season – Phase 2 – Progress and effectiveness of Victoria's immediate relief and recovery arrangements* report – will be reported in IGEM's 2024 progress report due to be submitted to the Minister for Emergency Services in June 2024.

2. **Samantha RATNAM, page 36-7**

Question Asked:

From your perspective – and it is really great to hear that you have got such a strong monitoring of the implementation and the findings role as well – where are we in the implementation of those findings? In 2020 this report came out. We have had very significant events since then with the pandemic – I am sure that slowed things down, and we understand that – and then a very significant disaster situation in 2022. Should we have expected some of those recommendations and findings to have been implemented to a greater level than what we have now seen in this inquiry?

Response: Refer to response above.