

FOREWORD

AJEM CONFERENCE EDITION

David Templeman, Director General and Chair, Conference Steering Committee

Welcome to this special edition of AJEM which showcases the outcomes from the 2003 Australian Disaster Conference hosted by Emergency Management Australia (EMA) in Canberra.

The theme of “community safety is everyone’s business” was certainly an appropriate corner stone on which our 150 speakers built their wide-ranging presentations, and I congratulate them for unselfishly sharing their thoughts and experiences with the 700 plus delegates over the three days in September.

EMA also acknowledges the interest and participation demonstrated by all delegates, without whom the Conference would not have been possible.

We were delighted to see everyone benefit, not only from the presentations, but also from the interactive workshops, breakfast sessions, poster and business exhibitions, and the social events.

Based on the 1999 Australian Disaster Conference celebrating the culmination of Australia’s contribution to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Conference agenda was developed in close consultation with our stakeholders in the emergency management community.

The energy and dedication from our Conference Steering Committee with representatives from the various emergency management sectors resulted in a national event that was highly successful.

Their efforts were enhanced by strong support from sponsors such



Mr David Templeman, Director General, Emergency Management Australia and General Peter Cosgrove AC MC

as the Australian Government’s Department of Transport and Regional Services, the Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, and AusAID; as well as the Insurance Australia Group and Critchlow Associates.

The opening day’s key note addresses at the international, regional and domestic levels all touched on leadership and set the tone for the remainder of the Conference.

In particular, the personal contributions made by the Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, were inspiring and relevant to the many challenges facing emergency managers in an all-hazards context.

I believe you will find the summary, samples of the papers and ideas presented, and the selection of papers from each of the Conference’s seven streams very informative reading. Of particular

note is the international address – *Global Challenges in Disaster Reduction* – by Dr Salvano Briceño, Director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

EMA also plans to publish Conference Outcomes—a report which will be available on our web site at www.ema.gov.au, or by sending an email request to ema@ema.gov.au.

Based on the success of the 1999 and 2003 Conferences, and the strong support from the emergency management community, a third Australian Disaster Conference may be possible in 2006–07.

Mr David Templeman is Director General of EMA and Chair of the Australian Disaster Conference Steering Committee.