

Outgoing AJEM Editor-In-Chief receives accolades from Attorney-General for leadership role

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock paid tribute to the contribution of David Templeman after almost six years at the helm of Emergency Management Australia.

Mr Ruddock said Mr Templeman had overseen Australia's emergency management and coordination arrangements at a pivotal time in both natural disaster management and in counter-terrorism planning, preparation and response.

David promoted a national approach to emergency management in all jurisdictions throughout Australia, and in the Asia/Pacific Region. His whole-of-government, multi-agency approach has been embraced by emergency management organisations, the volunteer sector, community groups, and the media.

David stepped down effective from 7 March 2006, to concentrate his attention on his health and his family.

"I would like to acknowledge David's leadership role in developing Australia's emergency management and setting a benchmark for whole-of-government response and recovery measures," Mr Ruddock said.

"His drive to establish and maintain international best practice has been a significant achievement and reflects extremely well on both David and his organisation."

Mr Ruddock noted the extraordinary emergencies in recent years over which Mr Templeman had presided in his role at EMA. "A range of emergencies and potential incidents on-shore have also seen his active involvement, from bushfires and floods to coordination of disaster conferences and emergency management volunteer summits."

David's particular challenges have included dealing with the re-entry of the Mir Space Station in early 2001, contributing to enhanced national security arrangements in Australia since the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and the Bali bombings in 2002, and liaising on national health issues such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic in 2003. He also led the coordination of Australian Government assistance in response to major bushfires in eastern Australia in 2002-03, and following tropical cyclones that impacted on Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Niue, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands. The latest challenge was managing EMA's role in Operation Tsunami Assist following the earthquake off Sumatra on 26 December 2004.

More recently, he oversaw the management of the Australian Government's new funding and policy initiative aimed at supporting local communities and volunteer groups involved in emergency management.

Mr Templeman was appointed in June 2000. His resignation comes after 38 years in the Australian Public Service in the fields of Human Resource Management, Organisational Management, major Departmental restructuring and now emergency and consequence management. Nearly half of his public service has been in Senior Executive Service positions.

The role of Acting Director General of EMA was filled by Trevor Clement from 16 December 2005 to 14 August 2006. During this time Trevor Clement as Acting Director General EMA coordinated Australian Government assistance to Tropical Cyclone Larry, Tropical Cyclone Monica, the East Timor Unrest and Operation Java Assist in response to the Yogyakarta Region earthquake in Java, Indonesia.