

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS ANNOUNCES OCEANIA REGION XIV



*“I strongly urge you to consider joining IAEM as a way of assisting the further development of the emergency management profession in the Oceania region.”*

Tony Pearce  
Director General – Emergency Management Australia  
President – Oceania Region XIV IAEM

The International Association of Emergency Managers was founded in 1952 as the U.S. Civil Defence Council, it was also formerly known as the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management. It is a not-for-profit registered Association that brings together emergency managers and disaster response professionals from all levels of government, the public and private sectors, and volunteer organisations around the world. Since 1998, memberships have grown to over 3000 registrants from over 47 countries.

Unprecedented growth in the non-US membership base over the past 4 years has resulted in endorsement of two new regions by the parent association (ie. Region XIV, Oceania and Region XV, Europa). Of most interest to the readers of AJEM is the development of the Oceania region which is the amalgamation of 121 members across Australia (92) and New Zealand (29).

After a significant membership drive in Australia in October 2006, the national representative (Tony Pearce) canvassed the idea with the membership to apply to IAEM in the US to form an Australian region having surpassed the 75 member minimum requirement. A discussion with the New Zealand national representative (Kristin Hoskin) resulted in both countries' members being canvassed to form an Oceania region that not only includes Australia and New Zealand but facilitates membership of Pacific Island nation colleagues. The countries have been grouped into the following sub regions:

Australia/New Zealand - Australia (AU),  
Norfolk Island (NF), New Zealand (NZ)

Melanesia – Fiji (FJ), New Caledonia (NC),  
Papua New Guinea (PG), Solomon Islands (SB),  
Vanuatu (VU)

Micronesia - Federated States of  
Micronesia (FM), Guam (GU), Kiribati (KI),  
Marshall Islands (MH), Nauru (NR),  
Northern Mariana Islands (MP), Palau (PW)

Polynesia - American Samoa (AS), Cook  
Islands (CK), French Polynesia (PF), Niue (NU),  
Pitcairn Island (PN), Samoa (WS),  
Tokelau (TK), Tonga (TO), Tuvalu (TV),  
Wallis and Fortuna Islands (WF)

The Australian and New Zealand national representatives have spent the past 4 months progressing creation of Region XIV Oceania. Activities resulted in a live website (see [www.oceania-iaem.com](http://www.oceania-iaem.com)), development of: a region structure; by-laws; fee structure options and a call and answer for nominations for Office Bearers (1 nomination for President, 2 for Vice-President, 6 for Secretary and 2 for Treasurer). These results represent 10 per cent of the eligible membership nominating for positions.

The voting period occurred on the web site between 19 and 23 February following which all by-laws, organisation structure, fees and Office Bearers were declared accepted or filled. The results were presented to the IAEM parent body at their March Board meeting and the new region was ratified and endorsed on 14 March 2007. Successful endorsement of Oceania also provides for the President of the region to fill a seat on the US IAEM parent body Board, this in turn will facilitate opportunities for the emergency management membership of this part of the world to input into IAEM's future initiatives in a truly international sense.

Prior to the process of developing the new region, the Australian national representative held initial discussions with IAEM in the US regarding development and implementation of an Australian Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) program that could be an adaptation of the already well regarded IAEM CEM®. These discussions are on-going and now involve discussions with New Zealand on development of an Oceania CEM.

Whilst important, membership growth is not the only focus of the new region. A large membership base is redundant if the members and the broader emergency management sector do not develop and grow in both the individual professional and sector/industry senses. Professional recognition of the emergency management sector (including volunteers and paid staff) and government/ community recognition of the service that the sector provides is important if we are to deliver enhanced community safety outcomes.

IAEM Oceania will give the EM profession in this part of the world an opportunity to interact as a professional body with our government structures, with industry and with the community. It will also be an excellent forum to advance the profession through sharing best practices and lessons learned.

To join, please access the membership area at [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) or contact your national representative (A list of national representatives is located under the Region XI (International) heading on the web site).