

The Productivity Commission's draft report, released in September 2014, outlined that effective planning and mitigation of risks is an essential task for governments, businesses and households. The report noted that governments generally overinvest in post-disaster reconstruction, and underinvest in mitigation that would limit the impact of natural disasters.

The Government is currently considering the Productivity Commission's final report, which was delivered in December 2014. It will be made public when it is tabled in Parliament, within 25 sitting days.

Looking towards the year ahead, the *Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*, to be held in Sendai Japan between 14-18 March 2015, will be a valuable opportunity to engage internationally on continuous improvements in disaster reduction.

In this issue of the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, I am pleased to note that a number of articles are strongly aligned with our National Strategy.

With a focus on the current theme of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on older people, this edition also examines how vulnerable and aged people in our communities can be better informed and prepared for disasters.

Also included are articles related to social media and the role it can play in emergency management and an assessment of community disaster resilience for small, high-risk communities on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* and wish you and your colleagues a safe summer.

**Chris Moraitis PSM**

**Secretary, Attorney-General's Department**

## Emergency Management Australia Podcast

Emergency Management Australia produces podcasts covering the latest in emergency management. This includes bushfires, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, as well as complex policy development or program delivery.

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**Episode 7** – looks at Ebola and the use and misuse of drones in firefighting. Dr Gary Lum, specialist medical advisor from the Department of Health gives some insights about the Ebola virus. Richard Alder, General Manager – National Ariel Fire Fighting Centre in Victoria and Superintendent Anthony Ferguson from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service talk about the potential for the use and misuse of drones in the firefighting process.