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Mr Phillip Green
Privacy Commissioner
Office of the Information Commissioner
PO Box 10143
Brisbane QLD 4000



**Inspector-General
Emergency Management**

Dear Commissioner Green

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2016 Consultation Paper on the Review of the Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009.

The paper asks questions about inappropriate restriction on the sharing and transfer of information. The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) continues to work to break down barriers to the sharing and transfer of information, which are important contributors to good community outcomes in disaster management.

In October 2014 this Office met with the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) to discuss perceived issues with information release during emergencies and disasters. This resulted in the OIC releasing, first an advice note, 'Privacy flexibilities in the management of disaster events' and subsequently a guideline on 'Privacy and managing disaster events'. This was helpful work for the disaster management sector. The Office recommends that the current review should consider how to further increase understanding about compliance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 and the latitude within it to share information.

In 2015 the Office of the IGEM initiated an innovation pilot project to encourage the better sharing of information between all stakeholders involved in disasters. While the project was essentially aimed at building trust to support sharing of information, it uncovered areas where policy might facilitate better information-sharing practice. Barriers to information-sharing became apparent due to statutory obligations, intellectual property, commercial imperatives, and meta-data standards. The Office advocates that any review of the Right to Information Act 2009 considers mechanisms that encourage ways to address a range of barriers, such as these.

For further information contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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Iain S Mackenzie AFSM
Inspector-General Emergency Management