

# FOREWORD

## AJEM in reflection

*by David Templeman, Director General, Emergency Management Australia*

---

*The Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM)* was first published in the form of a newsletter, *The Macedon Digest*, in March 1986 to fill an identified "information void within the counter-disaster community." It was recognised that a need existed for a publication to provide summaries of activities, research and meetings to "operatives, planners, trainers and researchers in the counter disaster/civil defence field." In 1995 the title was changed to *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management*.

Special issues dedicated to environmental health and disasters (1992), the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (1995), and more recently in 2004, agricultural emergencies and disaster recovery issues have been a feature of AJEM's history.

As a communication vehicle for members of the Australian emergency management sector, the publication facilitates a discourse within the emergency management community to enhance capability, as well as stimulate discussion relating to innovative emergency management practices. AJEM provides an opportunity for practitioners to report, describe events, trends and issues relevant to the field as well as provide a forum for practitioners and researchers to exchange views. As a result AJEM aims to educate and raise awareness of current trends in emergency management while increasing awareness of emergency management issues.

AJEM has secured a national niche. It provides a forum for a range of scholarly and practitioner articles that reflect considerable analysis, considered viewpoints, lessons learnt, and current and future issues.

While AJEM has come a long way in the past 19 years, its commitment to providing access to information and knowledge for the research community and practitioners of emergency management remains unchanged. It is this commitment to provide a journal appealing to all sectors within the emergency management sector that causes some challenges to its Editorial Board.

A recent readership survey clearly indicated that AJEM is largely successful in catering for its varied audience with a blend of articles in each issue. AJEM will continue to provide this balance, maintaining its reputation as Australia's pre-eminent authority on emergency management issues.

AJEM does not focus on single agency or hazard issues, but reflects Emergency Management Australia's (EMA) focus of a multi-jurisdictional, all-hazards approach to emergency management arrangements. The strength of the journal is in its neutrality and the variety of the published material effectively reflects this ethos.

Feedback from surveys conducted of our readership has revealed that AJEM is regarded as the principal or prime source of information for the emergency management sector within Australia. It is the only regular, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary publication of its type and is deemed by its readership as a reliable and credible source of information covering the full spectrum of emergency management. Our readers have stated that it is used in planning, training, education, exercise management, and presentations as well as a wide range of other uses.

Improving emergency management policy and practice in Australia requires the effective transfer and update of innovative practice, backed-up where necessary with carefully targeted research. EMA plays a key role in this area in capturing and transferring research and innovation particularly to reduce disaster-related loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption from natural, technological and human-caused disasters in Australia.

I consider AJEM a valuable communication vehicle for the emergency management sector and look forward to its continued success.



David Templeman  
Director General

### References

The Macedon Digest, Vol.1 No.1 March 1986, Pg.1