

Governance

Executive management

Board of Management profiles

Greg Leach

AFSM MBA MEmergMgt MIFireE GAICD

Commissioner

The Commissioner is responsible for leading and managing the efficient and effective functioning of the FRS, RFS and SES, and emergency management and disaster mitigation programs and services throughout Queensland.

Greg Leach was appointed Commissioner on 2 December 2019.

With 35 years' experience in the emergency services, Greg is a highly regarded emergency services executive with both country and metropolitan fire and ambulance services.

Greg began his career with the Country Fire Authority, Victoria where he held a number of senior operational roles. Greg then spent eight years with Rural Ambulance Victoria and then Ambulance Victoria, following the merger of the state's three ambulance services into a single service in 2008.

In 2014, Greg joined the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board as a Deputy Chief Officer and Executive Director, Organisational Learning and Development. During this time, Greg led the implementation of significant reform to the fire services in Victoria.

As an experienced and accredited Level 3 Incident Controller, Greg managed responses to some of the nation's worst fires, including responses to large wildfires, major structure fires and other emergencies including the Longford Gas Plant explosion in 1998.

As Commissioner, Greg is the Chair of the QFES BoM (refer Board and committees on pages 68–71).

The Commissioner represents the department at local, community, state, national and international forums including as a member of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and member of the AFAC Board. The Commissioner also represents Queensland at the AFAC Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee and the AFAC National Council.

Greg has a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Emergency Management, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Greg was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in June 2022 in recognition of his leadership and distinguished service across both Queensland and Victoria.

Mike Wassing

AFSM BAppSc (EnvMgt & LandUsePolicy) GradDipBusiness (StratMgt) GAICD

Deputy Commissioner, Readiness and Response Services

The Deputy Commissioner, Readiness and Response Services is responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordination of regional disaster management functions and regional operations for the FRS, RFS and SES across the state's seven regions.

Mike Wassing commenced in the role of Deputy Commissioner, Readiness and Response Services on 7 March 2022 from the former Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Deputy Commissioner role.

Mike is Chair of the QFES People Committee and a member of the ARCC (refer Board and committees on pages 68–71).

Mike is committed to enhancing and strengthening QFES' capabilities and promoting an inclusive and supportive culture that enriches the department's ability to support Queensland's local communities.

Mike has served in emergency services in both Queensland and Victoria for more than 30 years and has extensive experience leading the management and coordination of PPRR for all hazards, as well as strategic control and coordination for major emergencies.

Mike's career with QFES began on 21 September 2015 as Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience where he was responsible for the accountabilities of EMCC, RFS and SES, including support to approximately 34,500 volunteers. Mike has strengthened climate adaptation and transition arrangements across the department by leading the development of climate action plans including the *QFES Climate Action Plan 2022–26*, was instrumental in driving *Strategy 2030* and the Volunteerism Strategy and has championed many initiatives in the workplace to positively change organisational culture. His most notable achievement has been increasing women's equality within the workplace by providing support, coaching and mentoring to many officers to guide their progression.

Mike holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management and Land Use Policy, a Diploma in Firefighting Operations and Fire Management, and a Graduate Diploma of Business (Strategic Management). Mike was a participant in the Executive Fellows Program of Australia and New Zealand School of Government in 2017 and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a graduate member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Mike was awarded the National Emergency Medal for the 2009 Black Saturday fires in Victoria, Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and the 2019 North Queensland monsoon event. In 2019, he was awarded the AFSM for consistently demonstrating exceptional leadership to enhance volunteerism in emergency services and driving organisational change.

Mark Roche was Deputy Commissioner and a member of the BoM from 24 August 2015 until 4 March 2022, when he commenced pre-retirement leave.

Stephen Smith

AFSM EMPA MLshipMgt GAICD

Deputy Commissioner, Capability and State Services (Acting)

The Deputy Commissioner, Capability and State Services is responsible for the EMCC, FRS, RFS and SES directorates within the department, including supporting approximately 34,500 volunteers.

The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for providing overall strategic leadership and coordination for the development and maintenance of state capability, strategy and policy for the service streams of QFES. The Deputy Commissioner has oversight of disaster and emergency management including the QERMF, operational response and emergency management planning before and after disasters, volunteerism, and strengthening community partnerships to build safe, healthy, confident and connected communities across Queensland.

Stephen Smith commenced as Acting Deputy Commissioner on 7 March 2022.

Stephen began his career in 1994 progressing through to the rank of Assistant Commissioner in late 2015 and has served in various regional and state roles in a variety of specialist areas. Stephen has extensive knowledge, skills and experience in emergency and crisis management, both domestically and internationally, with a particular interest in leadership and capability development.

As Acting Deputy Commissioner, Stephen is Chair of the Capability and Service Delivery Committee and a member of the Strategy and Budget Committee (refer Board and committees on pages 68–71).

Stephen was awarded the AFSM in 2011 for distinguished service and success in technical rescue with outstanding commitment and drive in improving the profile and capability of the Queensland USAR Taskforce. Stephen has completed an Executive Masters of Public Administration, a Masters of Leadership and Management, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His current area of particular interest is organisational level change, leadership influence, and the human factors that influence organisational behaviour.

The former Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Directorate was renamed Capability and State Services in March 2022 (refer page 5).

Mike Wassing was the Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience from 21 September 2015 until he commenced in the role of Deputy Commissioner, Readiness and Response Services on 7 March 2022.

Adam Stevenson

Bec, EMPA

Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Corporate Services (Acting)

The Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Corporate Services is responsible for leading the department's strategic framework and vision, driving performance and providing the tools and systems for frontline service delivery across QFES. The division includes the directorates of Finance, Procurement and Levy; Strategy and Assurance; Asset Services; Information and Technology; and QFES People, and works closely with the public safety agencies including the Office of the IGEM and QPS.

Adam Stevenson was appointed as Acting Deputy Commissioner on 8 July 2019.

Adam began his career in the private finance sector prior to joining the Queensland Government in 1993. Throughout his public sector career, Adam has held a series of executive leadership positions across a range of Queensland Government departments in areas including managing state employment services, ICT strategy, Indigenous economic participation, corporate services, industry development and innovation, international trade and investment, strategic economic policy and planning, industrial relations, vocational education and training, and workplace health and safety.

As Acting Deputy Commissioner, Adam chairs the Strategy and Budget Committee (refer Board and committees on pages 68–71).

Adam has a Bachelor of Economics and an Executive Masters of Public Administration.

Jennifer Robertson

LLB GradCertBus FAICD FGIA

Independent member

Ms Jennifer Robertson was appointed to the BoM in December 2018 and is QFES' first independent member.

Jennifer is the Managing Director of Board Matters, an Australia-wide corporate governance consulting firm. With a 20-year history, Board Matters is recognised throughout Australia for its leadership and commitment to the highest standards of governance.

Jennifer is a practising lawyer and for more than 17 years has sat on or chaired a number of Boards throughout Australia. These include statutory bodies, public authorities, an Australian Prudential Regulation Authority regulated superannuation fund, an Australian Securities and Investments Commission regulated financial planning entity and many not-for-profit organisations. Many of Jennifer's Board roles combine the complexity of large and diverse businesses whilst overseeing many millions of dollars in a highly accountable, transparent and regulated reporting environment.

Jennifer sits on the Board of Queensland Independent Schools Block Grant Authority (and chairs its Audit and Compliance Committee), the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies Advisory Board, and the Sunny Street Advisory Board. Her previous roles have included the first non-pilot director on the Board of Brisbane Marine Pilots in its 31-year history, Chair of the Defence Reserves Support Council Queensland and Deputy Chair of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Laws and Graduate Certificate in Business from the Queensland University of Technology. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Governance Institute of Australia. Jennifer also holds a Certificate in Foundations of Neuroscience with Distinction from the NeuroLeadership Institute.