



ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP

In the past 10 years, Australia has been exposed to the full armoury of Mother Nature. Fire, flood, cyclones and hailstorms are just some of the challenges we have faced as a nation.

At the heart of the response has been a loyal band of volunteers who exemplify what we mean by community spirit. They give their time selflessly - aware that it could be they who might need help the next time. They are our local heroes.

For these efforts to be effective, there must be co-operation. That means co-operation between federal and state governments, the private sector and those volunteers.

There is also the threat of terrorism. All our preparations have been on the basis that we face a very real threat that requires that same spirit of co-operation if we are to be truly prepared.

Arguably, too little is known about the organisations that are responsible for our safety. That is because most of their work is done behind the scenes.

This publication highlights the skills and education programs, contingency planning and the systems for co-operation that allow them to adopt and react with maximum speed and maximum effect.

The region in which we live has also benefited. Witness the response to the devastation caused by the Tsunami in Indonesia and Thailand.

Any publication that brings into focus the co-operation that exists and the efforts of our local heroes is to be applauded. They may be ordinary Australians, but their efforts - and contribution - is anything but ordinary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ruddock', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

21st September 2006