## MEDIA RELEASE

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## HAVE YOUR SAY ON EMERGENCY MESSAGING STANDARDS IN AUSTRALIA

New Minister for Emergency Management, Robert McClelland MP, today invited all Australians to have their say on a proposed standard for national emergency messaging systems.

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) allows consistent emergency messages to be disseminated simultaneously over a number of different warning systems including radio, television, mobile phones, warning and alert systems, email and social media.

"Last year's devastating disaster season demonstrated the importance of getting clear, consistent and timely information to the public," said Mr McClelland.

"The new CAP profile will ensure a consistent approach to emergency messages.

"Input from the community is vital in ensuring the new standard is tailored to Australia's unique emergency management environment, so I encourage anyone with an interest in emergency messaging to provide their feedback on the draft protocol.

"That includes the general public, industry representatives and emergency management organisations."

The public review period will be open until 20 January 2012.

"The Attorney-General's Department is leading this work with States and Territories and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) in the USA, which will provide the final certification of the Australian CAP Profile," said Mr McClelland.

"This is a major step forward for future community safety and I commend the work done so far in reaching this important milestone on the road to better disaster resilience."

To read the proposed Australian CAP Profile, submit comments for consideration, and obtain further information, visit http://www.em.gov.au/cap.

**Contact:      Simon Ferguson - 0427 934 112**