



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Operation Recovery Task Force

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.54 am): Last week General Peter Cosgrove met with me for the last time in his official capacity as head of the Operation Recovery Task Force. He also presented me with the final report of the task force, which I am pleased to table in the House today.

Tabled paper: Report, dated April 2007, titled 'The Final Report of the Operation Recovery Task Force—Severe Tropical Cyclone Larry—Version 2'.

I seek leave to incorporate the details of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This report provides an overview of how the recovery was organised and what was done and contains detailed reports from relevant State and Commonwealth government agencies on their activities in response to Cyclone Larry.

Examples of key working documents are also attached to the report.

Mr Speaker, my Government supports the recommendations presented here by the Task Force.

These include making the document available within Queensland and other jurisdictions for future reference—and we will do that.

The report will also help form a template for Queensland's recovery operations in the future and this is a significant legacy that the Task Force leaves behind.

Mr Speaker, the report also recommends, among other things, engaging non-Government organisations and volunteer groups in planning for natural disasters and improving the broadcast capability in the early aftermath of a disaster.

Other recommendations put forward by General Cosgrove and the Task Force include having a centrally located media operations centre in the event of a future large-scale disaster and the need to prioritise the development of a coordinated public communications plan.

Once again Mr Speaker, my Government supports all of these recommendations and they will play a vital role in our future planning for emergency situations brought about by natural disasters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank General Cosgrove and the other members of the Task Force for the significant contribution they have made to the recovery effort.

I'd also like to thank Task Force support staff, government agencies, non-government organisations, community organisations, and volunteer groups for their efforts.

But the recovery effort is not finished Mr Speaker. The work being done in Far North Queensland will continue and so will the network of support for the communities affected.

We have arrangements in place to ensure this happens. The Operation Recovery Management Group, the Building Coordination Centre and the One Stop Shop in Innisfail and Malanda will continue to operate well into 2007.

The people of Far North Queensland can rest assured the Government will continue work to ensure the ongoing recovery of the region.