



Speech by

## Hon. David Crisafulli


MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Wednesday, 13 February 2013

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### QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

#### Introduction

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (4.01 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013 [\[2068\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes [\[2069\]](#).


As the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, I stand in the House today to introduce the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013. In January 2013 ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and an associated monsoon trough passed over parts of Queensland over a number of days, causing widespread devastation and heartbreak. The government's response to this devastation was immediate, recognising the critical need to ensure Queenslanders in need received crucial and rapid assistance. The recovery and reconstruction of affected communities is the immediate priority for the Queensland government. There will also be a strong focus on building Queensland's resilience to natural disasters by improving the capacity of infrastructure to withstand future disaster events. This bill will amend the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 to ensure that the government is able to effectively and efficiently respond to the 2013 disaster events which devastated Queensland and to enhance Queensland's resilience to future disasters.

In particular, the bill proposes to amend the definition of 'disaster event' to include storms, floods and tornadoes caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated heavy rains in January and February 2013. This will allow the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to exercise its reconstruction powers for those communities affected by the 2013 disasters. This amendment reflects the widespread and serious damage caused by these recent events and ensures a coordinated approach to recovery in the affected communities. The bill recognises the role of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the need to ensure the authority continues its work on the ground. The bill proposes to extend the expiry of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 until 30 June 2015.

Finally, the bill reflects the government's emphasis on improved disaster resilience in our reconstruction program. The bill provides the Queensland Reconstruction Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience. The government clearly recognises the importance of focusing on resilience and doing what we can to avoid such widespread devastation in the future for our communities. In response to this, the bill ensures that the government's emphasis on disaster resilience is reflected within the purpose of the act and the functions of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. I wish to recognise the important role which local government plays in not only the initial disaster response but also the community recovery in the weeks, months and even years following a disaster. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority will work with affected local governments and local communities in delivering its reconstruction and resilience program.

It is absolutely essential that this relationship continues, and the bill recognises the expanded role which will exist between the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and local governments in ensuring the improved resilience of our communities. With the passing of this bill, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will not only focus on the reconstruction of our communities but also ensure their future resilience. Importantly, the bill ensures that Queensland communities affected by the recent 2013 events will receive the recovery assistance they need. This role is an essential one.

### **First Reading**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (4.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.