



Speech by


**Hon. David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

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## **QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (6.25 pm), in reply: I thank everybody for their contribution. The bill puts into action what we have been talking about, which is to ensure that not only do we recover but we do so in a more resilient way. It ensures that communities affected in 2013 are able to receive ongoing assistance. It also extends the life of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority until 30 June 2015 and incorporates those events from January and February of this year.

I will now go through members' contributions and make some comments in response to some of them. I do thank them for their contribution. The member for Mackay started and finished by saying that floods were above politics and in between he politicised it. I will say that I have no intention of responding to many of those things put forward. The reason is that there are six families who do not deserve to be part of it and there are many thousands more who are recovering. What they deserve is leadership right now, not people looking to score a cheap political point.

I will, however, make one point about betterment. Whilst I respect the manner in which everyone in this House has spoken about betterment and whilst I respect that there has always been an ability for a council to make that case, it has been so bureaucratic and so troublesome that it quite simply has not worked. I have stood on too many broken bridges and seen too many pumps that do not pump despite the fact that council has said, 'Do not put it there,' to think that the betterment proposal works as it is. It must be changed and I look forward to the support from the Commonwealth to make sure that it does.

The member for Toowoomba South spoke about orchards which was near and dear to his heart as the agriculture minister. He has done a mighty job in putting forward the application to the federal government for category C funding. I commend him for that. Indeed, we have mentioned today the importance of category D funding, and I do hope that is coming sooner rather than later, particularly for those orchard growers whom the member for Toowoomba South mentioned.

The member for Logan spoke with great passion. I must commend both him and the member for Waterford for the fine effort and the leadership they provided their community. Logan may not have been impacted as much as other parts, but there was some real damage and some people who had real need. I made the point to the member for Waterford on that day when he assisted in the clean-up that I had heard a lot of things about Logan; I had watched a lot of media reports and been told about all the bad things in Logan. However, on that Saturday morning I saw all the good things about Logan. I saw a great community with a great spirit and they helped their fellow man. There were neighbours helping neighbours. There were strangers helping strangers. There was a group from the Muslim community and there were church groups and they all rolled up their sleeves to make a better community. So I thank the member for Logan for his contribution.

The member for Gladstone has been a tower of strength for her community during this. She spoke about all the responsibilities of all levels of government. She is right—all levels of government. Who cares about the politics in this? Our community is so much more important. She spoke about constructing in such a way that it does not get washed away.

The member for Maryborough mentioned sandbagging, and how appropriate! She was on the front line with her community as it waited for those record levels of water. The member for Lockyer, who has been through it before, spoke so strongly and he spoke about resilience and the need to make sure that the cost of reconstruction is not too restrictive. The member for Gaven spoke about consistency in terms. The member for Keppel articulated well all three elements of the bill. The member for Burnett spoke about rebuilding with common sense and engineering solutions. Finally, I can say to the member for Nicklin that we have said all along that we will consider and continue to mount the case for any region that can show need. We will put that case forward to the federal government and I think that we have done a pretty good job of negotiating with it at this point in time. I am confident that the affected local governments will work well with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. I am confident it will be a great partnership. I want to place on record my great thanks to everyone who has played a role from all three levels of government and everyone in this House for their contributions. I commend the bill to the House.