




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Insurance Companies

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.21 pm): One of the driving ambitions of the Newman government is to find a way to make things happen, because we know it has been far too long since Queenslanders have had a government that stands up for them. That means simplifying things whenever we can. People yearn for a common-sense approach to life and fair reward for effort, and that includes their dealings with insurance companies. The people of this state have been hit hard—first by floods and then by the massive insurance hikes that followed. From my talks with the insurance industry it is obvious that more could be done to help flood victims.

Insurers offer discounts on home and contents premiums for measures like security screens, alarms and deadlocks. Why can they not cut customers a break when they choose more resilient building products or raise their house high enough to avoid flooding? I acknowledge that there are a few companies in the industry who take some factors into account, but I am referring to a clear set of guidelines—not on a suburb-by-suburb basis and not even street by street but by house-by-house assessments. A simple declaration is all that is needed.

This government is all about getting the best results for Queenslanders and their families. I am asking insurance companies to take stock of their current practices and start helping those who are showing the sort of resilience that will help us recover from these floods. If homeowners take into account their location's vulnerability to flood and storm damage, build their houses accordingly and lessen the risk of re-damage, what is stopping insurers from reducing their policy prices accordingly?

It could be a win-win. People like the Hargreaves family in Bundaberg would get some financial relief from the impost of a \$6,000 flood insurance premium which they are struggling to pay. Insurance companies would sign up many of the people who are now forced to forgo the security of insurance simply because it is unaffordable. Owners who have restumped their houses more securely or above benchmark flood levels, resisted the urge to build in extra rooms underneath Queensland's stilt homes, lifted power points above flood heights or even laid tiles in downstairs rooms instead of carpet deserve to pay less insurance.

I say to insurance companies: reward the people who are doing the smart thing and they will reward you. It is not rocket science. It is not just common sense; it is another way we can all play a role in standing up for Queensland families.