



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2013

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Get Ready Week

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.23 pm): As previously mentioned by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, right now we are in the middle of Get Ready Week—a campaign to build community resilience to deal with the extreme weather and natural disasters that are part of living in our great state. We want Queensland to be Australia's most disaster resilient state. Resilience is about more than just good preparation: it is a mindset that accepts extreme weather is a fact of life in Queensland and prepares to handle it accordingly.

This week councils, government agencies, businesses, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and individuals will pitch in to get themselves, their families and their communities ready for the storms, cyclones and floods that can affect us during the summer season. Cyclones are of particular concern to the people in the far north. In recent years cyclones Yasi and Larry have left a trail of destruction across the region. This summer people can rest a little easier thanks to 10 new cyclone shelters in Far North Queensland. We now have shelters in Port Douglas, Proserpine, Tully, Ingham, Mackay, Bowen, Weipa, Townsville, Cairns and Yeppoon. These shelters are in addition to existing ones already in place in Cairns, Innisfail, Cooktown and Kowanyama. These new shelters were constructed under a \$60 million program jointly funded by the Queensland government and a very generous donation from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

I have personally visited some of these shelters—namely, Ingham, Bowen, Proserpine and Weipa. As well as keeping people safe, they are a tremendous asset to the community. Most of them are located on school grounds and are designed to function as indoor sports facilities—basketball, volleyball, netball et cetera—and can also serve as a modern function venue for the community. Capable of withstanding a category 5 storm when winds can exceed 300 kilometres an hour, at more than 1,500 square metres they can provide shelter for up to 800 people. Equipped with features to ensure people's comfort and safety such as a backup generator, a kitchen, toilets and showers, they are fit for purpose for any disaster that might eventuate. We cannot prevent natural disasters, but we can make sure that we are ready for them.