



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Flood Recovery Plan

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.28 pm): The can-do Newman government also has a strong plan for flood recovery. Queensland has had a rough few years on the back of repeated natural disasters that have wreaked havoc on communities the length and breadth of this great state. The constant disruption has affected everything from access to services and people's homes, to simple things like the local supermarket being unable to be resupplied.

Early on, the Newman government identified three areas where Queenslanders were being let down in dealing with natural disasters. Firstly, there was the initial lack of speed and urgency in getting the major repairs up and running. We knew that communities could not recover if people's access to front-line services, commerce, education and family were disrupted by a slow construction period. Secondly, we knew that we were being let down again by a lack of planning. We had a ridiculous situation where expensive and vital infrastructure was being damaged one year, repaired to the same standard and location the next year and then destroyed shortly after, the next time disaster struck. Not only was this bad in a value-for-money context; it was also devastating to communities that would spend years without access to vital infrastructure, due to a lack of planning by previous governments.

Madam Speaker, I seek leave to have the balance of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This is why we spoke to the Federal Government and requested a \$200 million betterment fund to end the madness.

A great example of this madness was the Gayndah water intake. The Gayndah Water Intake facility was washed away in the 2011 floods, rebuilt in exactly the same location then extensively damaged again in 2013, just two weeks after it was recommissioned.

With a bit of planning and common sense the pump was relocated to higher ground with the help of the extra money from the betterment fund. The residents of Gayndah can now have some confidence in their future water supply.

The third issue is mitigation. In many cases, mitigation projects have suffered due to the protests of minority groups who would rather save a plant than a human. In other cases time has diluted the interest of the government and community in mitigation projects.

Our methodical approach to natural disasters has seen us put in place funding for flood programs of around \$50 million to keep on driving flood resilience and ensure that we are following our plan to protect communities now and in the future.

An example of a great mitigation project is the Roma levee. We worked with the local council to build the 5.2km levee. In the future, the levee will offer some peace of mind to the 500 homes and businesses that have been repeatedly smashed by floods. And in the meantime, residents are now able to get insurance when it was not offered before.

All that I have mentioned has not happened by accident. For too long the lack of planning by previous governments has led to longer periods of misery for communities affected by disaster. The stark improvements in performance are a direct result of our methodical approach which is seeing communities back on their feet sooner and protected into the future