




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (3.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution in steadfast support of the Disaster Management Amendment Bill and I commend the minister for the bill. As the deputy chair of the Disaster Management Committee I can say that the changes are common sense, they are as a result of a government that is listening and they are the result of a government that has taken huge steps forward in the way that we recover and deal with disaster events.

I will speak on some matters related to disaster recovery, all of which, I believe, are in support of this bill. First, this is a very opportune time for the minister to be bringing this legislation to the House as it is Get Ready Week. I say to all 89 members of this House that they have a role to play in engaging their communities and making sure they are passionate about spreading the message of getting ready. I think it is very well understood that in recent years we have taken huge steps forward when it comes to preparing our communities for disaster. We have done more mitigation work in the past couple of years than we saw in the better part of the last decade. We are recovering better than we ever have before. I believe that government, emergency services and the authorities in general are playing their part.

This year, Get Ready is about the individual. It is about saying to mums and dads and families across this state that they also have a role to play, that it is not always somebody else's responsibility. Sometimes the individual has a role to play as well. The little things can make a world of difference. It is about people getting their houses in order. It is about making sure the yard is free of debris. It is about people making sure they have a proper plan in place. It should not be a case of 'when something goes wrong we'll see how we might be able to get out of there in a hurry'. People should have a plan that says, 'This is what we are going to do if we are faced with a certain disaster,' and they should make sure their loved ones know that plan. It is also about having adequate food and water supply. I challenge people across the state to think about what that adequate supply of food and water might be. People should think, 'If we were forced to survive three days without food, water and electricity, what would our family need?' People should not rely on somebody else coming there to fill that void; they should try to be as self-sufficient as possible.

The other big push this year is to convince people to get all of their documents in hand. After the tragedies of Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013 and Tropical Cyclone Ita in 2014, there was a need for people to get their hands on information quickly. The last thing you want to do after your home has been flooded is to go looking for proof of identification, insurance documents and all of those things that we would otherwise find it easy to get hold of. I ask everyone across the state to take the opportunity, with a clear mind, to get their affairs in order. It is too late to begin planning when the water is actually lapping at the door or a fire is starting to touch the eaves. It is then too late to make a plan. The time for planning is now.

I will also speak briefly about the actual recovery component in support of what I think are common-sense changes in the Disaster Management Amendment Bill. I think everyone in this House

needs to be very passionate about disaster recovery. The arrangement that has existed between the three levels of government and the cooperation that exists have always served our state well. I refer to the local know-how of local government and the ability of the state government to cut through bureaucracy and provide a quarter of the funding and the federal government to provide three-quarters of the funding.

Madam Deputy Speaker Cunningham, as someone from regional Queensland you would be very well aware of the draft recommendations of the Productivity Commission on natural disaster funding. I say to members of the House very clearly that these are draft recommendations. They do not represent the view of government or the elected officials on either side of the House. These are draft recommendations. But some of those recommendations should be kicked so far into touch that we never hear about them again. Some of them would be disastrous for regional Queensland. I will be making a submission. I have urged councils to make a submission and to clearly put the point that we believe in the ideas of mitigation and betterment. We love it; it is in our DNA. But it cannot be used as an excuse for one level of government to get out of funding their fair share. If you look at capacity to pay, I believe that the current funding model is very close to being spot on—that is, 75 per cent from the federal government, 25 per cent from the state government and local government to pick up all of those things on the ground as they come through.

Part of the Productivity Commission's draft report states that they would like to see more money spent on mitigation. I give that a tick. The amount that has been floated is \$200 million spread on a per capita basis across the states. First of all, the pool of money is far too small. Two hundred million dollars is absolutely inadequate. Secondly, to do it on a population basis is absurd because Queensland is the most disaster impacted state, so funding mitigation on a per capita basis is crazy. That would see us secure about \$40 million for mitigation. To give members an indication, in the last financial year we spent in the order of \$3½ billion recovering from disaster events. Forty million dollars will not prevent us needing to spend \$3½ billion. If we are serious about mitigation then we should go in boots and all and spend more. That does not allow one level of government in the meantime to walk away from Queensland communities in their hour of need.

I go back to where I started. Wholeheartedly, this is not policy. This is not me pointing the finger at politicians on either side of the federal House; this is me saying that this draft report presents an opportunity for elected officials to show leadership and to stick up for Queensland. That is what this House and this government have a record of doing in the past couple of years. We have been prepared to stand up for Queensland, regardless of the political messaging of the day. That is our role and it will continue to be. This is a huge issue.

I conclude by again thanking the minister. There are some very good, common-sense proposals in the bill—to ensure the disaster management committee runs very smoothly and, above all, to continue to tell Queensland communities that when they are in their hour of need, when they are doing it toughest, government will continue to be at its best to help them through.