




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.36 pm): We want Queensland to be Australia's most disaster-resilient state. The Department of Housing and Public Works takes the lead in building and engineering services, as outlined in the state's disaster management framework. We are streets ahead of where we were a few years back thanks to 10 new cyclone shelters built through a partnership between the Queensland government and the emirate of Abu Dhabi. We now have cyclone shelters in Port Douglas, Proserpine, Tully, Ingham, Mackay, Bowen, Weipa, Townsville, Cairns and Yeppoon. These shelters are in addition to ones already in place in Cairns, Innisfail, Cooktown and Kowanyama.

Through Housing Services we make sure that we have the capacity to provide temporary shelter to people who have been displaced by a natural disaster. We also provide an active outreach service post an event to make sure that people have access to the help that they need. We had a great example of that in Bundaberg where a tent city was created following the floods two years back. At its peak, that camp was housing and feeding 125 people per day. We also make sure that we have access to a range of other temporary accommodation solutions that are available, including permanent and temporary camps and bases, relocatable housing options in various configurations and relocatable amenities and ancillary buildings, cabins, caravans et cetera. Building and Asset Services plays a role in coordinating temporary accommodation for use as forward command posts, recovery centres, local disease control headquarters, storage facilities and ablution facilities.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission inspectors are also ready to swing into action after any disaster event, providing advice on the structural integrity of damaged homes and the correct procedures for repairs. They also put on information seminars so that people know exactly what they should do if their homes have been damaged. Resilience is more than just good preparation; it is a mind-set that accepts that extreme weather is a fact of life in Queensland and prepares to handle it accordingly.