




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tropical Cyclone Marcia and Tropical Cyclone Nathan

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Queenslanders are no strangers to cyclones, and Cyclone Marcia and Cyclone Nathan certainly put communities in Central Queensland and North Queensland to the test. From the first images we saw come through at Kedron to the personal impacts I saw on the ground, it is fair to say that Cyclone Marcia left a trail of destruction from Shoalwater Bay through Rockhampton and south to Gympie and beyond. In places like Jambin and Biloela, I also saw everyday Queenslanders dealing with the impacts.

The scale and extent of devastation in the Central Queensland area was obvious to anyone. It was difficult not to be moved by scenes of houses that were torn apart or tales of lives that were turned upside down. The people I met in the Central Queensland area following Cyclone Marcia demonstrated terrific courage in extremely difficult circumstances. Cyclone Nathan dealt its fair share of havoc in Far North Queensland too but thankfully not as severe. For both cyclones we have activated recovery activities under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community groups, the volunteers, the police, the fire and ambulance workers, defence force workers, local businesses, community recovery staff and others who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Volunteers and staff from across state and local governments worked tirelessly to clean up after Cyclone Marcia and Cyclone Nathan. The Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Police and the members for Keppel, Rockhampton and Cook have also been instrumental in recovery efforts and I thank them for their support.

I want to reassure all those who have been affected by these cyclones that the Queensland government stands with you. We will be with you as the recovery effort continues and you rebuild your communities. We are committed to helping communities achieve a speedy and comprehensive recovery so people can get back on their feet as quickly as possible.