



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 May 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): We live in one of the most beautiful areas in the world, but calling Queensland home can come with a price. We live in a time of extreme weather, and extreme weather events are becoming part of everyday life for Queenslanders from the south-east to the Far North. Earlier this year Tropical Cyclone Marcia wreaked havoc on the Central Queensland and Yeppoon areas, devastating the community and 350 families whose homes were destroyed.

On Friday night Queenslanders again witnessed just how ferocious nature can be and how extreme and violent weather events can shock, confront and overwhelm all areas of this great state. Sadly and tragically, five people lost their lives on Friday night when their vehicles were swept away by floodwaters north of Brisbane. The scene that confronted police and emergency officers at Beerburum Road, Caboolture early on Friday evening was both devastating and tragic. Two vehicles had been swept away by a flash flood, tragically claiming four lives. The three occupants of the first vehicle were pronounced dead at the scene. They were family members Anthony Barry McDonald, aged 74; Tamra Kim McDonald, aged 39; and five-year-old Tyler Kai McDonald. One of the occupants of the second vehicle, Emmett James O'Brien, aged 49, also died.

A second incident at Morayfield Road, Burpengary at about 8.30 pm claimed the life of 75-year-old Kallangur man Robert Duk Man Leong. Emergency services officers were able to rescue a 68-year-old Kallangur woman found clinging to a tree at the scene. These tragic deaths are a stark reminder of the force and ferocity of Queensland's weather. They also stand as a reminder of the dangers of driving through floodwaters. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I offer my condolences and the sincere condolences of my government to these families. May these people killed in Friday's weather incident rest in peace.