



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Ravenshoe, Community Recovery**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): It has been nearly five weeks since the tragic events that have forever altered the landscape and character of the tiny town of Ravenshoe in our state's north. In the space of seconds, an explosion ripped through a café in the heart of the town, ultimately claiming the lives of two people and causing life-altering injuries to many others. Initially, 20 people were admitted to hospital, many in serious or critical condition. While 10 people have now been discharged, one person remains in the Cairns Hospital and seven in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Sadly, two women, Nicole Nyholt and Margaret Clark, died from their injuries. My deepest sympathy and that of everyone in this House goes out to their families and their friends and to the Ravenshoe community.

In the past five weeks the Ravenshoe community has pulled together to help and support the families of these two women and the families of those who were injured. In addition, both government and non-government agencies have joined to help get the town back on its feet. I single out for special mention the Ravenshoe Community Centre and all of its volunteers, the Tablelands Regional Council, GIVIT, the UnitingCare Community and the on-the-ground efforts of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health, and the police and emergency services. I want to put on record that the member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, has also played a pivotal role in rebuilding hope in the community of Ravenshoe. Thank you very much, member for Dalrymple.

Queenslanders have once again demonstrated their great generosity in giving to others in their time of need. Over \$400,000 has been donated to the GIVIT appeal, including \$20,000 from my government. Counselling has been provided to 224 people and travel and accommodation assistance has been given to 50 family members to help them visit the injured in hospital. Volunteers have reached out, offering help with practical things like lawn mowing, home maintenance and pet care.

The recovery effort is very much a local effort, and two local committees have been formed to coordinate and distribute assistance. In addition, the government will make sure the recovery efforts continue over the long term so that those affected and the town itself are able to recover.