




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Climate Change

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.19 am): I rise today to discuss an issue that is important to all Queenslanders but which I do not feel has been discussed enough in this chamber in recent years: climate change. The previous government thought they could ignore climate change—some of them even thought they could deny it was happening—but they were negligent. They negligently told councils they could not work with their local communities to develop plans to adapt to rising sea levels, and they negligently oversaw a spike in Queensland's land use emissions that will more than wipe out any benefit from the Commonwealth's Emissions Reduction Fund. They were negligent because Queensland is already experiencing the effects of climate change. This week international studies demonstrated that the 2011 Queensland floods were worse than they would have been because of climate change. Warmer oceans delivered more water to the atmosphere, which led to greater precipitation and bigger floods.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: Read the research! Those opposite may not get it and they may want to deny the science, but the people of Queensland get it. Thousands of them marched at the weekend with the Deputy Premier and me and many of our colleagues from this side of the House—

A government member: And the member for Logan.

Dr MILES: And the member for Logan—to call for world leaders to act on climate change, and world leaders are acting. This week at the UN Climate Change Conference more world leaders are gathered under one roof than ever before, and on Friday I will join them. I will be there to make sure that the future of the Great Barrier Reef is front and centre in their deliberations. As they consider all of the consequences of climate change, they must consider the reef. It is hard to imagine that something you can see from space today could be gone in decades if the world does not act on climate change, and we will act here too. We will not be negligent.

We are acting to support communities as they adapt to climate change. Last week we held the South-East Queensland climate adaptation conference to discuss what we love about this region, how it will change under different climate conditions and how we can adapt. At the same time Minister Bailey is working on a renewable energy plan to make sure that our kids can have the clean energy jobs of the future.