



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Far North Queensland, Weather Event**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.07 pm): I advise the House that a cyclone warning has been declared for coastal and island communities from Karumba to Cape Keerweer. The low may develop into a tropical cyclone later today as it approaches the southern Cape York Peninsula. The Bureau of Meteorology will be updating its advice at 5 pm today. Local disaster management groups are now on alert status. District disaster management groups for the Far North and Mount Isa are also on alert. The tropical low in the Far North will most likely move further east over the Gulf of Carpentaria and may form into a tropical cyclone late this afternoon or tomorrow. There remains uncertainty in the movement and development of this system.

As Queenslanders know all too well, cyclones are consistently inconsistent, so we all must remain alert. There have been significant falls of rain across large tracts of Queensland over the last week. After such a crippling drought, we need prolonged soaking rain. A number of Queensland dams are now full and spilling over, including Queensland's largest dam—the Burdekin Falls Dam. There are moderate flood warnings for the Western and Diamantina rivers, the Georgina River and Eyre Creek. There is a flood watch for the gulf rivers, Cape York Peninsula and north tropical coast catchments. Numerous roads throughout Central and Western Queensland remain closed or have restrictions imposed as a result of continuing heavy rainfall and flooding. The Diamantina Development Road is closed from Boulia south to Bedourie and Birdsville and roads east from Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville also remain closed. I will report back to the House as conditions develop.