




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has been managing a reconstruction program worth more than \$13 billion to repair damage from multiple natural disasters endured by Queensland in recent years. This work has been done through the cooperation of local councils and a range of Queensland government agencies and through the joint state and Commonwealth funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The NDRRA provides disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters.

The claim for NDRRA works across impacted communities was submitted to the Turnbull government on 24 March 2016 for reconstruction work undertaken in communities devastated by a series of events. It also went towards rebuilding our iconic ferry terminals and the public transport infrastructure that was destroyed during the 2011 Brisbane floods. Our claim was accompanied by an unqualified audit issued by the Queensland Audit Office, and Queensland was expected to be paid more than \$1 billion due on the 2014-15 claim by 30 June this year. In the past, the Commonwealth has paid these claims in the same financial year they were lodged.

As honourable members know, without warning or consultation the Turnbull government decided that it would withhold the funds owed to Queensland. Indeed, the Deputy Premier and I only became aware of this after a detailed scan of the federal budget papers in May. Honourable members must understand that funds for Queensland were withheld not because Queensland has done anything wrong, but because the processes of the Turnbull government had been called into question. I am advised that our 2014-15 claim has now been assessed and that the Turnbull government concedes it owes Queensland \$1 billion in disaster relief funding. I want to place on record my thanks to the Deputy Premier for putting forward our case for these funds to be reimbursed by the Turnbull government.