




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

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

QCoast2100

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.13 am): I can today announce the first three local councils to benefit from the Palaszczuk government's \$12 million QCoast2100 fund to help coastal communities prepare for the impacts of climate change. Moreton Bay Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council and Whitsunday Regional Council have each submitted strong applications for a share of the funding, which is available to all coastal councils. The councils will now develop a coastal hazard adaptation strategy for their area based on an assessment of the specific local conditions and challenges which they need to meet.

By 2100 we can expect a projected sea level rise of up to 0.8 metres and cyclone intensity may increase and possibly track further south more often. That means accelerated coastal erosion, permanent inundation of low-lying areas and an increase in the areas impacted by storm surge and king tides.

The QCoast2100 program is being administered by the Local Government Association of Queensland, which is working with eligible councils to support their proposals and assist them in preparing potential projects. The emphasis for the QCoast2100 program is very much on helping coastal communities plan and prepare for coastal hazards such as storm tide flooding, coastal erosion and sea level rise.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has received a grant of \$500,000 to develop a coastal hazard adaptation strategy after an initial high-level assessment by council identified a number of urban coastal areas at risk from coastal hazards. These include Toorbul, Donnybrook, Beachmere, Dohles Rocks, Bribie Island and Redcliffe in the first instance, with more areas likely to be identified as the two-year project progresses.

Noosa Shire Council is looking to update and expand its previous work on developing a coastal hazard adaptation strategy, with \$490,000 over two years. In particular, the council has identified Noosa Heads, Noosaville and Tewantin as the focus of its project area. Together, these localities account for around three-quarters of Noosa's resident population.

Whitsunday Regional Council has been granted \$513,500 in QCoast2100 funding to develop its Resilient Whitsunday: Coastal Hazards and Response project. Whitsunday Regional Council has more than 500 kilometres of coastline with historical coastal hazards affecting Bowen, the town of Whitsunday and numerous smaller coastal communities. It is imperative that councils in affected areas take action now, and that is why we will work with councils and the LGAQ to deliver practical help where it is most needed.