



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Natural Disasters Recovery Assistance, Federal Funding**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 am): The federal government's proposed reforms to Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements are scheduled for implementation from 1 July this year. However, there are no details of the new NDRRA funding model outlined in the federal budget. I am advised that the Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding remains unchanged, with the budget providing no indication it will be extended beyond 2017-18. It remains of great concern to me that, just a matter of weeks away from the 1 July deadline for implementation of the new funding arrangements, we still have not been provided with the federal government's final funding model. Every Australian state, including Queensland, is being asked to prepare for the introduction of a process and a funding model without the courtesy of clear and final advice as to the requirements we will be required to meet.

Let me assure you, Mr Speaker, while Queensland is better placed than most states and territories to capably manage the introduction of the new disaster relief funding arrangements, state and local government agencies are still being placed in a position of having insufficient time to provide adequate assurance and audit scrutiny before the model is in place. More than half of Queensland's local governments are currently recovering from natural disasters, and the delay in providing certainty around their future funding arrangements is simply unacceptable. It is unacceptable that the LNP has time for preselection battles but cannot manage to finalise these important disaster recovery funding arrangements.

Queensland is more exposed to natural disasters than other states, and that is why we need the federal government to stop dithering and show us their plans. Our vulnerable communities deserve better than the way they are being treated by the Turnbull government at this time. I have today again written to the federal minister responsible for the NDRRA, Angus Taylor, expressing my concern about the current situation and I have urged him to resolve this matter immediately.