




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): There is no more basic responsibility for government than to ensure that communities are protected from disasters and can recover from them. That is why I am so proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided for a \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund in this budget which will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations deliver mitigation and resilience projects across four years, starting in 2018-19.

This important program provides a damning contrast with the Turnbull government. As I have said many times in this place, the Turnbull government has been failing in its responsibilities to Queensland by refusing to clarify the funding changes it is making to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, the NDRRA. With barely three weeks to go until the cessation of the NDRRA, the Commonwealth finally released the new disaster recovery funding arrangements just last Friday. The arrangements will apply to natural disaster events from 1 November, with the existing NDRRA determination to apply in a transitional arrangement for any disasters that occur between now and 31 October.

While finally we have some certainty with the disaster recovery funding arrangements, there has been no commitment from the Turnbull government to continue the Natural Disaster Resilience Program past the end of the 2017-18 financial year. What that means is that there is a funding gap where we will not see federal money made available for resilience works until after disasters occur. The LNP and Malcolm Turnbull want Queenslanders to wait until disaster strikes before they will pay for preventative works, but thanks to the Palaszczuk government Queenslanders can rest assured that they will be supported to undertake resilience works in our local communities. We will not make Queenslanders wait for a disaster in order to get critical works underway.

With the establishment of our \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund, we will bridge the gap between the cessation of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and the allocation of funds that will eventually flow from the disaster recovery funding arrangements. Once again, I call on the Turnbull government to match our government's \$38 million funding commitment dollar for dollar across the next four years. We cannot wait for disasters to strike and wreak havoc, because history shows that up-front investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of government in the long term.