Speech By

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Get Ready Queensland Week

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): Last week's extreme weather across our state's south-east has sent a clear message that Queensland is once again heading into our annual storm and cyclone season. Last Monday I had the pleasure of joining the Premier, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, as well as some of our state's emergency service workers and disaster recovery personnel to launch Get Ready Queensland Week in the Queen Street Mall. Whether it is the risk of fire, floods or storms, being prepared is essential.

Our government urges all Queenslanders to prepare what-if plans and get ready for the upcoming storm and cyclone season. Simple steps like preparing an evacuation kit that includes medication and important documents can ease the impact of a disaster and enable faster recovery. It is also important to note that disaster preparedness is not just a one-week effort.

Our government, through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, has provided $2 million to councils in this financial year to help them build community resilience as part of the 2018-19 Get Ready Queensland program. Queensland will use this funding for first-aid equipment, sandbag machines, defibrillators, training for local disaster management staff, equipment for evacuation centres and much more. We have also created a $38 million fighting fund to strengthen the state's resilience to future disaster. I repeat my call to the federal government to support Queensland and match our funding.

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Queensland, with more than 60 disaster events since 2011. Last week's storms are a timely reminder of what may lie ahead. While the federal government is not supporting Queensland, Queenslanders can support themselves by making sure they get ready.