




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

MOTION

Natural Disasters

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Premier's motion. Throughout Central and North Queensland we have seen unprecedented events, from the bushfires late last year to the devastating floods in Townsville and Western Queensland. It seems year after year we are seeing unpredictable weather events never seen in Queensland's recorded history and it highlights the importance and our thanks to our responders.

I offer my condolences to those who have lost loved ones, those with serious injuries and those who have lost all their possessions as a result of the natural disasters. I have seen firsthand the devastating effects on Queenslanders of fire and flooding, with extensive damage to property and loss of their possessions which can never be replaced. We have seen the impact on wildlife and the hundreds of thousands of cattle that have perished. I would like to thank all those who have assisted in the ongoing response to these disasters, from emergency services and Defence Force personnel, local, state and federal governments and community sector workers and volunteers. I would also like to put on record my thanks for the fantastic team work and collaboration across all sectors of the community in responding to these recent events, particularly our volunteers. These men and women sacrifice their time with family, their jobs, their businesses and also their sleep. I cannot commend all of those involved highly enough for their dedication to continue working in incredibly difficult conditions. Their dedication to our communities makes them an inspiration to us all.

I once again thank Fire and Emergency Services and SES staff and volunteers who saved our communities in the Gracemere, Rocky and The Caves area. I say a heartfelt thanks to all of the responders to our recent natural disasters and all those, such as our community recovery and housing staff, along with many others, who will continue to support our communities as we rebuild.