




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events, State Economic Recovery Group

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.53 am): As the Premier has noted this morning, Queenslanders are renowned for their resilience and are no strangers to natural disasters and their consequences. It was only in November and December that parts of Central Queensland were blistered by catastrophic fire. More recently, for more than a week, in a tragedy that has yet to run its course, North and North-West Queenslanders were deluged by unprecedented monsoonal rain. Today, many Queenslanders in the north and west of our state are in the midst of a big clean-up. There is mud under their fingernails. Some are living in temporary accommodation. Although they are tired, they have kept going for their families, their businesses and their communities.

They are going to need our help and we are getting it to them, because nothing stirs a Queenslander more than the sight of another Queenslander in need. While North Queenslanders are focused on getting back on their feet, the Palaszczuk government has a plan to bring about the long-term economic recovery of affected communities. Last Thursday, I attended the first meeting of the State Economic Recovery Group, which was established in the wake of the North Queensland flood disaster. The State Economic Recovery Group includes representatives from relevant peak bodies and industry groups, affected local councils, and Commonwealth and state representatives from economic agencies. We will be working with local communities so that we understand and can respond to the impact on supply chains, on industry and on jobs because, while homes and businesses need to get cleaned up and rebuilt, we know that you cannot have a community without jobs. That is why our government has always focused on the long-term economic health of regional and rural Queensland.

Queenslanders in the north and north-west of our state may not have seen a flood of this magnitude before, but they are no strangers to tough times and are some of the strongest and most resilient people in Australia. The Queensland government stands firmly beside them and will ensure that every resource is at their disposal in the days, weeks and months ahead as they rebuild their lives, community and economy.