




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): This year has been like no other when it comes to testing the resilience of Queenslanders and our ability to respond to disasters. Whether it be the bushfires at the beginning of the year or the onset of COVID-19 and the necessary restrictions that were put in place to keep us all safe, Queenslanders have demonstrated over and over that we are stronger when we stick together.

We were again tested at the end of October when severe hail storms hit parts of South-East Queensland. Hail up to the size of cricket balls fell in some areas of South-East Queensland, smashing through roofs, ceilings and windows. The aftermath of this disaster has been difficult for many residents, particularly as it has come during an already challenging year.

The Queensland government has once again been there to support the recovery of individuals and families that were affected by these storms. Our hardworking community recovery and housing staff and ready reserves worked alongside representatives from partner agencies including the Red Cross, Lifeline, WMCA and Salvation Army to provide the support. This was the first severe weather event we had experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and we successfully provided face-to-face assistance in a COVID-safe way that complied with the health advice.

More than \$1.1 million was provided to more than 5,300 affected Queenslanders through our Community Recovery Grants. Additionally, our community recovery hotline continues to provide assistance over the phone and has now responded to more than 1,400 calls over the past four weeks.

Our state is currently experiencing a La Nina weather pattern and we could face more severe weather events in the months to come. I encourage all Queenslanders to be prepared for any severe weather events we may face. Visit the Get Ready Queensland website and follow the easy steps to prepare for the season ahead.

The Queensland government and our partner agencies stand ready to respond to our communities in their time of need, the same way that Queenslanders have stuck together through the impacts of natural disasters in the past and the more recent COVID-19 challenges. As the Premier has said many times: Queensland, we are stronger together.