



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Water Security**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): Queenslanders have always been among the best in the world when it comes to battling natural disasters. We have pulled together this year to fight bushfires and a once-in-a-century pandemic. The Bureau of Meteorology recently confirmed that Australia is expected to experience above average rainfall with an increased risk of widespread flooding throughout summer. As always, Queensland is expected to bear the brunt of it. While the extra rain will be welcome news for Queensland's farmers, we must all be prepared for the risks associated with increased rainfall.

With the increased risk of widespread rainfall and flooding, the safety of Queensland's dams is critical. I can advise the House that Queensland is well prepared. Our dams are capable of safely enduring significant floods. Each dam has an emergency action plan and Queensland's major dams have also been working with local disaster management groups to carry out preparatory exercises.

Sunwater and Seqwater have continued to invest in major dam upgrades to ensure they remain safe. In South-East Queensland the major storages of Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams are all operating with reduced supply levels to increase their overall level of safety for the coming wet season. The water grid is moving water around to where it is needed now. For example, water is being pumped from Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba to ensure demand can continue to be met. If we do not receive the rain we are expecting to, we are well prepared for that too. We are prepared for all scenarios—rain, hail or shine.