



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Natural Disasters, Preparedness**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): Yesterday this House voted in favour of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. We know climate change is intensifying severe weather events across the country, and support for emissions reduction and more jobs in more industries through cheaper, cleaner energy, like hydrogen, are key strategies to combat its effects.

Queensland is no stranger to destructive natural disasters, such as storms, cyclones, flooding and bushfires, and we are well versed in preparing for, recovering from and building resilience to these disasters. This Get Ready Week is an opportunity for all Queenslanders to ensure they are prepared for the upcoming storm season. However, we know there are many Queenslanders—particularly people with disability—who experience barriers and challenges to disaster preparation and recovery. Studies have shown people with disability are twice as likely to be injured and experience social isolation as a result of natural disasters. That is why the Palaszczuk government, through the department of communities, has partnered with the University of Sydney, Community Services Industry Alliance and Queenslanders with Disability Network on a project to put people with disability front and centre in disaster and emergency management activities.

The Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction project considers the lived experiences of people with disability and their support networks in finding better solutions to manage and develop emergency preparedness plans. One of the people with disability who participated in the project is Des. Des is a QDN board member with quadriplegia who has experienced firsthand how disasters can impact people with disability. After a cyclone, Des was unable to be supported by his service provider and was unable to get out of bed. Fortunately, his neighbour came to his aid. For Des, this experience highlighted not only the importance of neighbours and support networks during disasters but also the importance of emergency preparedness plans.

Through this project, people with disability, like Des, have been leading the conversation. Yesterday I joined the minister, Craig Crawford, to showcase a suite of resources that have been created on how to include people with disability and their support networks in local emergency management. I encourage all members of the House to familiarise themselves with these resources and support people with disability in local disaster preparedness.