




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tabled Paper, Redaction and Apology; Bundaberg East Flood Levee

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.40 am): Mr Speaker, at the outset I apologise for tabling the document containing unparliamentary language and thank you for arranging its redaction. Today I rise to update the House on the progress of Bundaberg's economic recovery. The member for Bundaberg has been hard at work. He is out there every day fighting for Bundaberg and every single job: construction jobs, tourism jobs, hospitality jobs—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: He is indeed an excellent local member. On this side of the House we know that a good secure job lays the foundation for everything. That is why we come to work every day and fight for every single Queensland job, including in Bundaberg. Part of our plan—

Mr Boyce: People are facing financial ruin in Bundaberg.

Mr SPEAKER: I thought it was the former member for Hervey Bay for a moment.

Dr MILES: It is the future member for Wide Bay.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. The ministerial statement, as I hear it, is not provocative. I would like to hear the statement from the Deputy Premier.

Dr MILES: Part of our plan for job-creating infrastructure in Bundaberg is the Bundaberg flood levee. The Bundaberg flood levee will protect the city from flooding and be a key component of the region's economic recovery from this pandemic. By delivering 679 jobs, the flood levee will be a boon for tradies, concreters and manufacturers. It is at the top of our disaster recovery infrastructure priority list, and we are fighting for the Commonwealth to step up and deliver their half of the funds so we can deliver this in time before we see another unprecedented flood.

I was in Bundy only the other week and met with the mayor, Jack Dempsey, and the member for Bundaberg. The mayor has a bold vision for the flood levee. To him it is not just a piece of infrastructure. It is not just a wall of cold concrete. It is more than the 679 jobs it will create. It is more than flood mitigation. The mayor sees this as an opportunity for revitalisation for the whole of Bundaberg. He has a vision of the infrastructure delivering active travel options, including dedicated bike lanes. He wants to see the Bundaberg flood levee transformed into a tourist attraction in and of itself, bringing families together to enjoy it as part of an active lifestyle—the 'Bundaberg promenade', if you like. We share Bundaberg's bold vision for the town, just as we support the aspirations of all of our regional centres.