




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): When it comes to extreme weather events here in Queensland, it is not a matter of if but when. That is why the Palaszczuk government invests in an annual \$2 million year-round, all-hazards, resilience building initiative that helps Queensland communities prepare for natural disasters. Queensland has been impacted by close to 90 disasters in the past decade and, while Queenslanders are rightly renowned for our ability to respond, experience shows the better prepared a community is, the more quickly it recovers.

From emergency expos and community clean-ups to emergency plans in traditional First Nations languages, this year's \$2 million Get Ready Queensland fund is supporting local communities to better prepare for future disasters and severe weather.

Get Ready Queensland funding supports all 77 local governments as well as the Weipa Town Authority with the development and delivery of their own locally-led initiatives to target disaster preparedness and awareness in their region.

In 2021-22, the Get Ready Queensland program is administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as part of its mission to help communities be better prepared for disaster as well as reducing their risk and building resilience.

Over the years we have seen terrific council initiatives that have made a significant impact in their local communities, including disaster dashboards, bedding for evacuation centres, school visits and emergency evacuation planning for aged-care residents. This year is no different and I am particularly pleased to see many activities across the state focused on working with culturally and linguistically diverse and disability groups to ensure disaster messaging and awareness is appropriate for all Queenslanders.

I am pleased to advise the House that once again Rugby League legend Johnathan Thurston is championing the Get Ready Queensland message as ambassador for the program. As JT recently said, Queenslanders always work as a team, but when an emergency hits, it is vital that we have also prepared as a team.

I am always inspired to see the way Queenslanders step up in the aftermath of a disaster to support each other and their community. We obviously cannot control the weather, but we can always be better prepared. The \$2 million Get Ready Queensland grants funding will help our communities to do just that.