



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): If there is any one quality Queenslanders are recognised and admired for throughout Australia it is our resilience and our ability to get up again and dust ourselves off. In our recent history, we have never needed that quality more. Consider this: since 2011, our state has faced 100 natural disasters. Those disasters have come with a collective damage bill in excess of \$21 billion. We have endured 65 natural disasters since we have come to office, and it is imperative today that I tell Queenslanders that sadly there is more to come. We will need to find and utilise that resilience I mentioned at the outset yet again.

In light of new forecasts this week from the Bureau of Meteorology, each of us in every community needs to understand that now is the time to get ready and be ready. This week is Get Ready Week and the bureau has predicted an increased risk of widespread flooding for eastern and northern Australia, including Queensland, for the coming severe weather season. With parts of Queensland already inundated due to recent rain, the threat of increased flooding is here already and it is real. With Australia in line for a third La Nina season in a row, the number of tropical cyclones is highly likely to increase this season and we will see them earlier—as early as November, next month. The clear message is that from flooding and cyclones to bushfires, heatwaves and giant hail, we experience it all in Queensland and now is the time to prepare.

We are still recovering from one of our toughest summers ever, and we are going to need every ounce of that renowned Queensland resilience as we go forward. The flooding this year came fast, it was unrelenting and it proved a tragic reminder of the catastrophic impacts such weather events can have. That experience tells us all that there are steps that need to be taken to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible.

It is heartening that more than 60 per cent of Queenslanders now say they get ready ahead of disaster season and have an emergency plan in place, but we are eager to see an even higher uptake. All Queenslanders need to understand their risk, make an emergency plan and pack an emergency kit. Listen to the warnings and take advice. They should keep themselves, their loved ones, their homes and their community safe. Do not miss this window of opportunity to get ready.