




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Disasters, Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): Since 2011 our state has faced 100 natural disasters that have come with a collective damage bill in excess of \$20 billion. We know that this summer the weather bureau is predicting an increased threat of flooding and an increased and early threat of tropical cyclones as we experience a third La Nina season in a row. We can never be too ready into the future. I want to thank every single fire officer, SES worker, rural firefighter, marine rescue crew member and QPS member who all go above and beyond to keep our communities safe. I pay tribute to their efforts each and every year when they walk toward danger to ensure our safety.

Today our government will announce key and historic reforms that will deliver improved and streamlined emergency services for a much safer Queensland. The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services will in a moment provide comprehensive detail of what these key reforms will involve, but they are part of our government's determined effort to make sure Queensland is in the best position to respond to ongoing and more intense natural disaster events, and in the best position to respond to these impacts.

The changes to be announced today follow an independent review of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services which has presented a raft of recommendations, all of which we accept in principle. To achieve that, our government will commit more than \$400 million over the next four years, investing in almost 500 additional frontline personnel and delivering better frontline services for all Queenslanders. This is in stark contrast to the former LNP government which cut services right across the state. The minister will outline the restructure in a moment. Given the fact that we are the state most exposed to natural disasters, it is imperative that we are prepared. What my government is doing today is ensuring that.