




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Floods, Community Recovery Hubs

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.06 am): I am always inspired by the strength and resilience of Queenslanders. That incredible Queensland spirit has once again been on display following the devastating floods across the south-east. The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of supporting communities as they respond to and recover from natural disasters. A key part of this support is our community recovery hubs providing vital face-to-face advice and assistance to people in need.

In the wake of the recent floods we were quick to establish hubs in some of the hardest hit towns and suburbs. We have had more than 20 community recovery hubs and pop-up hubs open across the south-east, operating from Maryborough on the Fraser Coast to Palm Beach on the Gold Coast and Gatton in the Lockyer Valley. At these hubs Queenslanders can speak to community recovery workers, apply for grants, access emotional support and be referred to other support organisations. The hubs also host a range of partner agencies such as Red Cross, Lifeline and the Salvation Army, as well as representatives from Services Australia and, of course, insurers, and our housing staff are on hand to provide housing assistance to impacted Queenslanders.

Over the past couple of weeks I have had the chance to visit hubs at Caboolture, Palm Beach, Beenleigh, Gympie, Ipswich, Laidley and South Brisbane. I heard firsthand of the unimaginable toll these floods have taken on individuals and families. There have been stories of loss, hardship and devastation, but there has also been some incredible work happening at our hubs to give people hope and emotional support. As well as support for their immediate needs, such as food and emergency housing, so far 60,669 people have been supported with grants for emergency hardship and other service assistance following the recent flood, with over 26,000 payments made totalling more than \$11 million. If Queenslanders have not already, I encourage anyone in need of support to visit their nearest community recovery hub. Our flood-affected residents can also seek more information online or phone the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to our incredibly hardworking community recovery staff and the almost 300 Ready Reservists who have stepped up to help others. Whether they are out in the field doing outreach in communities, providing support in our hubs or working around the clock to process grant applications for people in need, I thank them for their dedication.