



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Disaster Preparedness**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.55 am): Queensland farmers know only too well the threats that Mother Nature can pose. Many in Southern Queensland have experienced four floods this year. If there is one thing we know as Queenslanders when it comes to natural disasters it is that preparation is the key. That is why I am urging producers to prepare now for the wet season ahead: have those contingency plans updated, have emergency supplies ready for your family and for livestock.

The Palaszczuk government is always looking to deliver better services for Queenslanders. That is why earlier this year the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries developed the online Natural Disaster Impact Survey. That survey will assist farmers throughout Queensland. It allows growers to quickly record and upload evidence of the damage to their property caused by floodwaters. It means that DAF is able to capture the extent of damage to properties quickly and, importantly, allows disaster assistance to flow to those in need quicker than in previous natural disasters. I encourage producers to keep the Natural Disaster Impact Survey handy this wet season.

If any producer is impacted by a natural disaster they do not have to wait till national disaster arrangements are activated. They can immediately apply for Individual Disaster Stricken Property status with access to freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 and concessional loans of up to \$250,000. We know that it has been tough getting contractors and tradies to help with repairs after natural disasters. That is why the closing date to lodge recovery grant applications for this year's February to April floods has been extended to 10 March 2023 and we are working with the Commonwealth on extending the closing dates for the other flood events.

I can also announce that due to the improved seasonal conditions, after almost a decade the drought declaration for the Paroo Shire will be revoked, effective from tomorrow. That means the drought declared area of Queensland has dropped to 38 per cent. As we approach another La Nina event this wet season, I want to assure Queensland producers that the Palaszczuk government will always stand by them through the good times and the bad. We will continue to provide them with better services so that they can go on with producing the best quality food and fibre that supports the good jobs in Queensland's agriculture industry and our state's great lifestyle.