




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.45 am): Every year we face the devastation caused by disasters and emergencies. Cyclones, storms, intense rainfall events and floods have all taken their toll in various parts of our state at different stages of this summer. Although our summer is nearly over, severe weather events continue to impact our state. Right now the south-east is experiencing an absolute deluge. In the past 24 hours alone, the Sunshine Coast has seen 300 millimetres to 400 millimetres of rain. With flood watch active across South-East Queensland, flood warnings in many parts of the south-east and the potential for further intense rainfall over the next couple of days, I take this opportunity to reassure Queenslanders that we are ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us.

As the most disaster affected state in the nation, we are also the most prepared. Queenslanders are renowned for our grit, determination, and resilience. While all manner of severe weather events can hit Queensland, the one constant is the response of our frontline emergency services people on the ground. We saw that again overnight and we are seeing it again today. Our elite Fire and Emergency Services swiftwater rescue teams have been out in the extreme weather saving lives. SES volunteers have been doing what they always do: braving the worst conditions to help their fellow Queenslanders in their time of need. Since noon yesterday there have been over 100 calls for assistance and I am advised that the call rate is increasing this morning. Overnight there were 23 swiftwater rescues carried out, saving Queenslanders from flooded homes and cars. To all of the frontline responders, on behalf of all Queenslanders, I want to say thank you.

When it comes time to help in the wake of disaster, Queensland is ready too. Queensland was the first state in Australia to have a permanent dedicated organisation to help communities recover following disasters. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority guides our state's mammoth reconstruction program. Since 2010-11 more than 90 natural disasters have affected our communities, leaving a reconstruction and recovery bill of more than \$17 billion. Already this season we have experienced significant floods, including in the Wide Bay-Burnett, southern, central, western and Far North Queensland regions. Currently, QRA officers are working with those communities to assist with recovery and reconstruction. They stand ready to deploy to wherever they are needed next. Wherever and whenever disaster strikes, Queenslanders can rest assured that the Queensland government stands ready to help our communities before, during and after a disaster on the road to recovery.