




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Floods

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.48 am): The recent flooding seen in South-East Queensland, Wide Bay and Fraser Coast is the worst experienced since 2011. In some places it was worse. The QRA has carried out over 16,700 assessments of homes and commercial buildings. Suncorp Insurance has just updated the market regarding insurance claims, and that also provides a sense of the scale of the disaster. Suncorp alone has received more than 34,000 claims across Queensland and New South Wales, with around 60 per cent in Queensland and around 40 per cent in New South Wales. Over 80 per cent of total claims relate to home damage. They report the hardest hit suburbs in terms of Suncorp Insurance claims were Deagon, Aspley, Everton Park, Oxley and Caboolture.

It is clear that as we continue our recovery efforts we need to ensure we have a strong focus on resilience. I met with South-East Queensland mayors on Friday last week. They agreed that we need to ensure we are ready for impacts that we have not experienced before, like the unprecedented rainfall we experienced with this recent event. Queensland councils have seen firsthand the benefits of investing in betterment projects, with many recounting examples of homes and public infrastructure being able to withstand the impacts of the 2022 floods because of the investment that had been made together following previous flooding disasters. In February 2022, on the eve of the recent disaster, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change advised that climate change had already caused more frequent and intense extreme events and that multiple climate hazards will create compounding risks to communities, infrastructure and supply chains.

Investment in flood mitigation can provide economic returns and resilience benefits. As far back as 2002, bureau of transport economics research showed a three-to-one return on mitigation investment through avoided response and recovery costs, but Australian government mitigation spending was only three per cent of what it spent post disaster in recent years. Funds invested by the Palaszczuk government in betterment programs have paid off. We have supported more than 485 projects to the value of \$263.85 million. Many of these projects when impacted by subsequent disasters have sustained minimal or no damage, avoiding more than \$250 million in reconstruction costs from subsequent impacts. As we turn to the rebuilding task, it is those lessons that will inform how we build back to make sure our infrastructure and buildings can better withstand whatever disaster we face next.