




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Floods, Recovery**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.47 am): The recent flood emergency saw parts of the south-east suffer disastrous damage not experienced since 2011. Of the more than 16,500 assessments undertaken on homes and commercial buildings, nearly half were impacted. Over 1,800 homes and businesses were severely damaged, and more than 6,000 had moderate or minor levels of damage. Many properties have suffered costly water damage from flooding as well as from roof leaks that developed during the heavy, sustained rainfall. While some of these properties will be repaired quickly, others may not be inhabitable for months, if not longer.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the Palaszczuk government secured an initial \$558.5 million funding package to provide support to communities in need. Grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers, up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, and \$20,000 for sporting and community clubs and associations were made available. Some \$1 million was provided for each of the 19 affected councils to assist with urgent clean-up works, and \$24 million of recovery funds have been advanced to the 14 most affected councils.

We then got to work, assessing the overall damage wrought upon communities, to ensure the next round of funding made available would ensure South-East Queensland could not just recover but build back better. We worked around the clock to develop the largest ever disaster recovery package in our history.

It has now been more than a week since the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister asking the federal government to fund half of a \$771 million package to help disaster affected Queenslanders clean up and improve household resilience. This package will help Queenslanders whose homes have been ravaged by floods. It includes a \$741 million Resilient Residential Recovery Package that will provide Queenslanders whose homes have been flooded with a range of options including retrofitting, house raising or the voluntary buyback of homes at high risk from future disastrous floods.

A \$30 million clean-up package will support councils and state agencies with the clean-up of flood related debris from recreational assets such as beaches, waterways and parks and from commercial properties and households. We will also lift the structural assistance grants from \$14,600 to up to \$50,000 for eligible Queensland households to assist those with significant structural damage to their homes. The current proposal has been with the Prime Minister for over a week and the clock is ticking. This is a program that has the potential to change the lives of the people who have been affected by these floods.

Queenslanders are resilient and Queensland families do not just want to patch over the damage caused by the floodwaters. They want to raise their homes, make them stronger and build their resilience to flooding in the long term. People who are right now trying to work out their next steps in repairing, rebuilding and moving back to their homes need to know if the Morrison government is going to support them.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to fund half of this extraordinary disaster funding package. We need tonight's federal budget to deliver the other half. It is time the Morrison government stopped short-changing Queensland and Queenslanders. We need the federal government to work with us to continue Queensland's recovery so we can build back better.