




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.16 am): Queenslanders will be very disappointed in last night's federal budget. It was a budget that did not give Queenslanders their fair share. On health, housing, education and infrastructure the LNP have short-changed Queensland again. Only a fraction of the billions promised for new rail lines and dams were included in the forward estimates. It was most unfair that the budget failed to confirm whether the Morrison government will match Queensland's disaster recovery package. It might be hidden in there somewhere, waiting to be announced at the most opportune time for the government, but that will not help the Queenslanders wondering how or if they will rebuild.

Locals, whether they are in Goodna or Gympie, cannot take a hollow log in the budget to the bank. A political trick will not lock in a tradie to fix a house. They should not have to wait for the Prime Minister's campaign itinerary to know if they can raise their home above flood level. By forcing them to, the Prime Minister is demonstrating that he has no moral compass whatsoever.

From late February to early March, South-East Queensland experienced unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding. In Gympie, the Mary River peaked at almost 23 metres, breaking records that had stood for a century and causing major flooding in the region. Once again, Queenslanders are faced with a monumental recovery task as the mop-up from this flood emergency continues.

Early-stage indications suggest that the recovery cost could be in the region of \$3 billion, with private insurance claims already reaching more than \$1 billion. These floods come on top of an already intense summer disaster season with five previous natural disaster events already flooding much of Queensland since November last year. Some 52 of Queensland's 77 local government areas have been impacted by disasters; 18 local government areas have been hit twice by record-breaking floods already this summer in places such as Maryborough, Lockyer Valley and Goondiwindi. Bundaberg, Gympie and North and South Burnett have all suffered through three major floods in the past four months. This has once again seen Queensland earn our unenviable reputation as the most disaster-affected state in the nation. That is why the lack of recovery funding confirmed in the budget is so disappointing. Calls to cost share our \$771 million disaster package remain unanswered. There is no mention in the budget papers that this package has or will be approved.

Queenslanders whose homes were engulfed by floodwaters or whose rooftops caved in from the torrential rain have no certainty. Once again, the LNP has chosen New South Wales over Queensland and not given Queenslanders our fair share.