




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

International Nurses Day; Floods, Resilient Homes Fund

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.18 am): As the Premier has already acknowledged, today is International Nurses Day and last week we saw International Day of the Midwife. I would like to take a moment to thank the nurses and midwives who look after Queenslanders every day. They are true health heroes and we thank them. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has hired 9,626 more nurses and midwives. We will always support and invest in frontline healthcare workers.

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia, with flooding being the highest risk to our community. The recent flood emergency saw parts of the south-east suffer disaster damage not experienced since 2011. We know from initial assessments following the South-East Queensland floods that there were nearly 7,000 homes with some degree of damage and more than 3,600 left uninhabitable. So many Queensland homes were inundated by floodwater, leaving behind a big clean-up job for communities and significant damage to homes. From Dallarnil to Rocklea, Goodna to Gympie, many communities have had a tough summer.

While we cannot stop floods from occurring, we can take steps to reduce their impact. After the floodwater receded, we got to work developing a residential resilience package that would make a real difference. Today, Queenslanders can register for the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund. The fund will help Queensland home owners who are devastated by floodwaters to make their homes more resilient to future flooding. It is the largest household resilience program of its kind to ever be delivered in Australia.

Through the Resilient Homes Fund, Queenslanders whose homes have been damaged by flooding in the 2021-22 wet season will be able to apply for funding to repair and retrofit their homes, raise their house, or consider moving from harm's way through a voluntary buyback program. Incorporating resilient building design can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time taken to return people to their homes following a flood. This is a nation-leading program which has the potential to truly change people's lives by improving their resilience to future flooding or removing them from harm's way altogether.

The Queensland government has worked closely with insurers and representatives of the building industry to create the best program for Queenslanders. Similar programs have even delivered benefits to insurance affordability. Queenslanders whose homes were directly impacted by flooding are now able to register online. This includes over 37 local government areas impacted by the South-East Queensland rainfall and flooding event in February, ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, and Central, Southern and Western Queensland rainfall and flooding in late 2021. This is not just about building back; it is about building back better. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building safer, stronger and more resilient communities.