




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Flood 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) (9.41 am): Queenslanders are facing a monumental recovery from the 2021-22 disaster season. Across nine significant weather events, 66 of Queensland's 77 local government areas have been activated for joint state-federal disaster assistance. Thirty-nine of these councils have been impacted by two events; 14 councils were hit by three successive floods; while Bundaberg, Gympie and North and South Burnett all suffered through four major floods since the start of the year. Thousands of individuals, families, small businesses, primary producers and sporting organisations have felt the full impact of the floods that caused even more devastation than in 2011.

The QRA has recently completed Queensland's largest reconstruction monitoring assessment since the 2011 floods, checking on almost 9,000 homes and businesses across 16 flood-impacted local government areas through June and July. Almost 5,200 properties have been assessed with damage, with repairs started on nearly 1,700 properties—almost one-third—and more than 3,400 properties, or 40 per cent, no longer showing signs of damage. These are encouraging signs of recovery, but we know there is still much more to be done.

To date, more than \$33.4 million in emergency hardship payments have been provided to Queenslanders, benefiting more than 106,400 people. So far, 4,852 extraordinary assistance grants, valued at more than \$73.5 million, have been approved for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits and sporting and community clubs to help flood-affected communities get back on their feet. We raised the Structural Assistance Grant from \$15,000 to \$50,000 to assist home owners if they are uninsured or unable to access insurance. More than \$6.3 million in these grants have been approved, assisting more than 600 people.

All of that is on top of the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, which, as I said yesterday, has approved 90 home owners to take part in the voluntary buyback scheme across five local government areas so far. Both Suncorp and RACQ Insurance have praised the Resilient Homes Fund. Along with other insurers, they are working with the government on including the Resilient Homes Fund into their claims process. Over 70 per cent of people registered for the program have comprehensive home insurance that includes flood cover. Home owners can access funds in addition to their insurance, making it even easier for Queenslanders to build back better.

Finally, I would like to thank state recovery coordinators Major General Jake Ellwood and his predecessor, former governor of Queensland, Hon. Paul de Jersey, for their efforts supporting our flood-affected communities. Major General Ellwood has carried out more than 270 community visits, meeting with impacted Queenslanders, businesses, councils and charity organisations.

Mr Bailey: He has done a great job.

Dr MILES: He has done a great job. I will take that interjection. Recently he provided the State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24 to the Premier as a blueprint to work together to recover and make our state safer, stronger and more resilient in the face of future floods. As the State Recovery Coordinator has said many times, recovery from a disaster is more like a marathon than a sprint, and I can assure Queenslanders that we stand with them on the long road to recovery.