




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disaster 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): This year's disaster season saw multiple catastrophic events impact Queenslanders. Many communities were hit with two or three events, one after the other. It is now six months on from the start of the extraordinary floods that hit South-East Queensland in February. To date, more than \$33.4 million in emergency hardship financial assistance has been provided to Queenslanders impacted by this recent flooding and severe weather, benefitting more than 106,400 people.

I can advise that 5,093 grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers and up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, valued at \$77 million, have been approved. More than \$6.3 million in Structural Assistance Grants have been approved, assisting more than 600 people. We also secured more than \$2 billion in extraordinary assistance to provide support to communities in need. I note that 23 affected councils each received \$1 million to assist with urgent recovery and clean-up works, with Goondiwindi receiving \$2 million due to the severe impacts in that region from multiple events. We will reimburse councils and agencies for costs, including sandbagging and the restoration of essential public assets including roads and bridges. More than \$224 million in disaster recovery and resilience grants has been paid to councils, state agencies and non-government organisations in response to the 2021-22 disaster season events.

The Resilient Homes Fund is the largest resilience program of its kind in Australia's history. The Resilient Homes Fund is equivalent to rebuilding a town the size of Beaudesert. So far, 4,572 affected homeowners have registered interest in the fund. This includes: 1,355 homeowners interested in raising their home; 1,639 homeowners who want to retrofit to make their home more resilient; and 509 people who are interested in the Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program. There have been 740 floor level surveys completed and over 2,760 are in progress. Over 520 home assessments have been completed so far, prioritising the homeowners in some of the most heavily impacted areas with the greatest need. There have been 122 homeowners approved to have their homes purchased back through the program, including in Ipswich and Logan. I can advise that \$50 million from the fund has now been paid to Brisbane City Council to purchase properties in the Brisbane local government area.

While we still have a way to go, I am proud of the work we have done and the resilience of Queenslanders over the last six months. We are here with them every step of the way. We are committed to ensuring our communities recover and can build back better and stronger after these catastrophic events.