




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

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) (9.42 am): Last night's federal budget will deliver for Queenslanders. It is a budget that puts people first, helping with the cost of living, with cheaper child care, cheaper medicines and more paid parental leave. It is a budget that will deliver a million more homes over five years to ease the pressure in the housing market.

Q Shelter said this morning, 'In just one week, the Queensland Housing Summit and the federal budget have changed the trajectory for housing in Queensland and Australia.' That is because this is a federal government that will work with us, not against us. Indeed, the National Housing Accord will be a first, acknowledging what we have been saying, that we need all levels of government and industry to work together.

There is \$3 billion put aside for natural disasters. That will be important as we go into another La Nina while we are still recovering from the floods this year. The Albanese government has fulfilled its commitment to remodel the Emergency Response Fund into the Disaster Ready Fund and allocate up to \$200 million per year for disaster mitigation projects such as flood levees, cyclone shelters, fire breaks and evacuation centres.

In Far North Queensland, the budget included \$150 million towards the \$300 million expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct. We are working in partnership with the Albanese government to enable the maintenance, repair and overhaul of more and bigger ships in Cairns. A new common-user facility at the precinct will include a 5,000-tonne shift lift, enabling ships up to 120 metres long to be repaired and maintained on hard-stand areas. It is expected the expansion will open the region to more economic opportunities and create up to 150 local jobs. A common-user facility will ensure Cairns continues to ride a wave of success as northern Australia's home of vessel repair, maintenance and overhaul, and allow local service providers to pursue additional defence maintenance contracts. Our government has been committed to this project since day one and now, thanks to a federal Labor government matching our investment, dollar for dollar, we are able to deliver this significant expansion.

Also in Cairns, \$107.5 million has been committed to the Cairns Water Security project, again matching the Palaszczuk government's commitment, and the Australian government confirmed the \$600 million needed to restore Paradise Dam to its original capacity. There is acknowledgement that the federal government will continue working closely with us in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This budget is a good start, refocussing on the priorities of Queenslanders. I want to congratulate Queenslander Jim Chalmers on his first budget. We look forward to working with him on many more to come.

