




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Get Ready Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): We know that Queensland is frequently affected by extreme weather events, from floods and cyclones to heatwaves and bushfires. That is why we need to be prepared. This week, from 9 to 15 October, is Get Ready Queensland Week. This important campaign educates Queenslanders about the upcoming storm and cyclone season and helps us all to prepare our families and homes for a natural disaster. Ensuring Queenslanders have the necessary resources and are prepared before disaster season can help to save lives and build resilience.

Our highly experienced community recovery teams are ready to support Queenslanders during the upcoming disaster season, with extensive planning and preparation occurring throughout the year. If a disaster strikes, community recovery will be there to assist with emotional support, financial assistance, material aid and other support services. Over the years I have met with many community recovery staff across a range of community recovery operations and I have seen the incredible support that they provide to those in need and their commitment to looking after Queenslanders who have been impacted by disasters. In the last two years alone, community recovery teams have been deployed across six separate natural disasters, and a total of \$36.5 million in financial support has been paid to more than 113,000 people.

One of the strengths of our model is the ready reserve—a workforce of public servants from across the Queensland government who volunteer to be deployed to disaster areas across the state. They are dedicated support personnel on the ground when it matters most, assessing and responding to the needs of communities. I would like to thank each and every one of them for spending time away from their communities and their families to do this important work. You might see them out and about this week, in fact. Some of our community recovery team will be attending the Brisbane Emergency Services Expo this Saturday, 14 October from 10 am to 3 pm at Victoria Park. The expo is a great day out to meet responders and recovery workers, including some of our ready reserves. Families will be able to explore emergency response vehicles up close, experience demonstrations and workshops, and learn some valuable tips and tricks to prepare their home and make plans on how to stay safe before, during and after severe weather events. My department is also hosting a briefing for members on Thursday, from 1 pm to 2 pm, to ensure members can best support their own communities during the upcoming disaster season. Now is the time to get ready and be prepared.