




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North-West Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.50 am): Many Queensland communities are currently facing widespread destructive floods, with levels across the Gulf of Carpentaria and the north-west surpassing records set in 2011. Numerous flood warnings are current across Northern and Western Queensland and a flood watch continues for the Gulf Country and parts of the Lake Eyre Basin. Late last week more than 500 millimetres of rain fell in just two days, surging river levels to burst their banks and spread out across the Channel Country. There have been evacuations from inundated towns and devastating impacts to homes, businesses and primary producers. Thankfully, the Doomadgee and Gregory airstrips have remained open which has allowed for the restocking of essential supplies such as food and medicine.

The Queensland government swiftly activated the joint Commonwealth and state funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support the residents impacted by these floods. To date, 41 local governments have been activated for various assistance, including personal hardship assistance, support for primary producers and small businesses and relief measures to help uninsured home owners. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is on the ground in Mount Isa to support recovery planning and will continue to work with impacted communities and the Commonwealth to determine what further assistance may be required. Queensland communities are no stranger to flooding. We will always ensure that wherever and whenever disaster strikes our communities receive the assistance they need to get back on their feet.