




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North-West Queensland Floods, Recovery

 **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) (9.45 am): I recently travelled to the north-west of our state to witness firsthand the aftermath of a relentless monsoon season that hammered the remote region from Christmas 2022 to Easter 2023. The damage on the ground is significant, and the Palaszczuk government will stand with the communities of Burketown, Doomadgee and surrounds to ensure they have what they will need on the long road to recovery.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Major General Jake Ellwood joined me in the north-west. He is no stranger to disasters and the efforts required to ensure communities build back more resilient than before. He is already planning his second visit. I was also pleased the member for Traeger was able to join me. We met with councils and community members. We spoke about the region's recovery priorities and what will be needed in the weeks and months ahead. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority remains on the ground in Mount Isa and Burketown to support recovery planning and will continue to work with impacted communities and the Commonwealth on the long road to recovery.

A support package of up to \$12 million is now available for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits across the hardest hit areas in northern and western Queensland. It is too early to put a dollar figure on the reconstruction and recovery costs associated with these floods, but all affected local government areas can have confidence that the QRA will still be there to provide the assistance necessary to repair the damage.