




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Get Ready Queensland

 **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) (9.44 am): This week is Get Ready Queensland Week. Queensland has the unenviable title of the most disaster-affected state in Australia. We have experienced more than 100 natural disasters in Queensland since 2011, but by getting ready Queensland can also be the most disaster resilient state. Research shows that being prepared for a disaster not only protects individuals and their households but also helps them recover more quickly.

Yesterday I joined the Premier, students from St William's Grovely primary school, Ithaca Creek primary school and Rugby League great Johnathan Thurston to launch the start of Get Ready Queensland Week. Through the Get Ready program, \$2 million is being made available for councils to share on disaster preparedness measures like equipment for evacuation centres, disaster dashboards and community education. Analysis of the campaign shows that 60 per cent of respondents recognise the Get Ready Queensland campaign and roughly 90 per cent said that the program helps them become more disaster prepared. Almost 80 per cent said they would now prepare a disaster kit, while more than 70 per cent will make a disaster plan.

Just like many members in this House, I have seen firsthand the terrible toll natural disasters have taken on our state. Since 2011, natural disasters have left us a reconstruction and recovery bill totalling more than \$22 billion. The 2022-23 disaster season has an estimated public damage bill of around \$700 million, and this cost will likely rise. Right now, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is managing an active reconstruction program estimated at more than \$7.2 billion. This comprises works from 32 events across the 2019-20 to 2022-23 disaster seasons.

While the loss of property and infrastructure is devastating, the impacts on people are profound—lives turned upside down and a lifetime of work and memories suddenly gone. After a relatively mild winter here at home, we now face the prospect of a long, hot summer fuelled by the El Nino weather pattern. From bushfires and flooding to cyclones and severe storms, we experience it all. While we cannot control the weather, we can always get ready and ensure we are prepared.