




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

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Bushfires; Infrastructure Projects

 **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) (9.41 am): Bushfire season has started early this year, and we are already seeing dangerous fires impacting communities across Queensland. My thoughts are with the loved ones of the person who passed away in Tara overnight and all the first responders on the ground keeping Queensland communities safe. I can confirm bushfire affected residents on Queensland's Western and Darling Downs can now access assistance through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to help them recover from these fierce fires.

In addition to those impacted by the Baffle Creek and Deepwater bushfires south of Gladstone, Queenslanders impacted by bushfires at Captains Mountain, Cypress Gardens, Forest Ridge, Millmerran Downs, Millmerran Woods, Goranba, Kogan, Tara and Wieambilla can now apply for financial assistance. The assistance provides \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for a family of five to cover the costs of essential items such as food, clothing and medicine. Uninsured residents can also access means tested grants of up to \$5,000 per household. Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO, Major General Jake Ellwood, will travel to the region in the coming days.

We have kicked off the biggest decade of infrastructure investment in our history and it is set to transform the Sunshine State. To date, we have delivered more than \$96 billion worth of capital investment and we have committed another \$89 billion over the next four years. We are getting on with delivering more of what our communities need, and our Big Build is going to deliver big results for all Queenslanders.

We are upgrading schools and parks and community facilities. We are building more energy infrastructure, including the Queensland SuperGrid and the CopperString 2032 transmission line. We are also expanding the services Queenslanders rely on—building more hospitals, roads and social homes. We are keeping our state moving with big investments in transport infrastructure like Cross River Rail and the Bruce Highway upgrades. Importantly, our Big Build will lead to more good jobs, more investment in Queensland and better essential services. It also means exciting new industries and stronger regions as our population continues to grow. With more people calling Queensland home, we are investing where it counts to ensure we have the infrastructure we need where we need it, to maintain our great lifestyle.

I am also pleased to share that Queensland's Big Build website is now live. The website will be a great tool for Queenslanders to understand what is being built or upgraded in their region and why. It is the benefit these projects will bring to the people and communities across our state that is so important. Queenslanders deserve access to good services, closer to home, no matter where they live. From water to transport or health to housing, the dashboard provides a one-stop view of the range of infrastructure opportunities right across the state—from the Far North to Central and Western

Queensland to the Wide Bay and the south-east. Not only does it allow Queenslanders to see what is being built for them in their community; it also informs industry of the opportunities coming up, making it easier to plan, make investment decisions and participate in projects.

I encourage all members to use this website to look at what exciting infrastructure projects we are delivering in their regions and within their communities. We are in our golden decade of opportunity. The Big Build will help us make the most of it by driving economic growth and creating good jobs, better services and more of everything we love about Queensland. We are building big for Queensland's future and delivering key infrastructure that will benefit Queenslanders now and for generations to come because our very best days are ahead of us.