




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Natural Disasters, Recovery

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out the Miles government's plan to deliver vital infrastructure, secure our energy transition and deliver secure jobs for Queenslanders into the future. Investing in renewable energy and reducing emissions are about addressing the impacts of climate change and setting our economy up to embrace a changing world and new job opportunities.

More frequent and devastating natural disasters are threatening our Queensland communities. Since being sworn in, I have been to communities impacted by Cyclone Jasper and subsequent flooding and landslides and to communities impacted by the Christmas Day storms that decimated our power assets and damaged houses. In my own community, I have seen houses impacted by flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Kirrily. We have seen communities like Wujal Wujal absolutely decimated.

We have worked hand in hand with these communities on the road to recovery, and that is continuing. Damage assessments and reconstruction monitoring teams are revisiting impacted properties from this week in the far north before progressing to Townsville, the south-east and the south-west. In total, 2,975 properties will be assessed between 15 April and 3 May. QRA officers will collect information on property damage, progressive repairs, insurance matters and a resident's ability to access financial and personal support, when required.

Since August this year, Queensland has recorded more than 7,500 bushfires. More than 100 of these have been significant. Experts have also warned that rising sea levels due to climate change would increase the frequency of major flooding events. These compounding events risk the potential of stretching our emergency services to their limit and risk repeated impacts right across Queensland communities.

While we continue to strengthen our frontline services, we can help manage the risk of natural disasters into the future by addressing the impacts of climate change. We will keep responding to natural disasters, supporting communities in their recoveries and building emergency services' capability. We are also committed to delivering renewable energy to help address climate change and set Queensland up for the future.