




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.39 am): Queensland is no stranger to severe weather and over the past few weeks we have been tested again. Queenslanders right across the state have been impacted by intense rainfall and damaging flooding. Our focus now is on getting the community back on its feet and making sure there is no daylight between response and recovery.

Late last week, the far north of our state was impacted by Tropical Cyclone Narelle. It affected both sides of the cape, first crossing the eastern coast between Coen and Lockhart River on Friday morning. The category 4 system brought with it intense rainfall and strong winds. By Friday evening, the system crossed south of Aurukun at approximately 9 pm the same day. Our thoughts are with those in the Northern Territory who were also impacted by Tropical Cyclone Narelle and will also be commencing recovery operations.

Over the weekend, I travelled to Coen and Cooktown with the member for Cook where, thankfully, locals missed the worst of it. There is damage to roads, infrastructure and some structures, but, thanks to pre-positioning of personnel, our crews have been working quickly to restore power and water. Multiple communities are isolated and will remain so for weeks to come.

I am grateful for our police, emergency services, utilities workers, council staff, business owners and members of the community who continue to work together through these disasters. Queenslanders in communities throughout the south-west, Western Downs, north and Wide Bay-Burnett are also working to clean up from flooding earlier this month. Many hundreds of homes and businesses were inundated by floodwaters, and I know that Queenslanders in that part of the state are working to support each other however they can.

I also want to acknowledge the communities that have been isolated for some time and their resilience in the face of repeated disasters. We are working well with the federal government to provide critical funding for recovery in affected communities. A key part of that funding will be used for betterment to improve the resilience of key assets. I want to remind all communities, big or small, that this government will continue to provide support and be with you every step of the way.