

Question on Notice

No. 114

Asked on 8 March 2011

MR RYAN asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

QUESTION

How is the Queensland Government helping sport and recreation clubs in the Caboolture region repair and replace equipment and infrastructure damaged by the recent flooding event?

ANSWER

The impacts of the recent natural disasters have been devastating to individuals, businesses and community and sporting groups across Queensland. In response to this challenge, the Bligh Government has reprioritised its activities and programs to help those most in need.

On 28 January 2011, I announced the Sport and Recreation Flood Fightback Plan to assist sport and active recreation organisations impacted by these disasters. The Fightback Plan, which closed on 18 March 2011, comprised:

- financial assistance of up to \$12,500 to sport and recreation clubs that have suffered damage to non-insured essential sporting and recreation training and playing equipment
- up to \$60,000 as a financial contribution towards non-insured structural damage that has occurred to participation spaces, including facilities such as tennis courts and sporting ovals
- an advice referral service through the Community Recovery Hotline to assist affected sport and recreation clubs seeking advice or assistance with complex needs
- a linking service to match volunteer tradespersons with sport and recreation organisations
- access to specialist technical advice including engineering, building, insurance and restoration.

So far under the Fightback Plan, I have been very pleased to approve funding totalling \$11.35 million for 480 projects for equipment and infrastructure from applications across the State.

There were a number of sporting clubs in the Caboolture area which were inundated by flood waters and needed assistance. Officers from the Department of Communities have visited more than 25 clubs in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area to inspect this damage. I was pleased the Member was able to join me in personally visiting impacted clubs and his advocacy on behalf of clubs in his electorate and surrounding areas is to be commended.

This community effort is to be applauded and I take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to this very important work.

To date, four organisations in the Morayfield Electorate have been approved funding under the Fightback Plan for equipment and infrastructure grants totalling \$91,483 as follows:

- Burpengary Equestrian Centre—\$43,402 to repair indoor arena, stables, water tank, pumps, fences, car park and camping areas.
- Burpengary Riding for Disabled Association—\$29,400 to repair damaged infrastructure and \$12,500 grant to replace damaged sport and recreation equipment.
- Burpengary Pony Club—\$3,250 grant to replace damaged sport and recreation equipment.
- Burpengary Western Performance Club—\$2,931 to replace damaged equestrian training and competition equipment.

The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority is administering a range of funding for the Federal Government's Natural Disasters Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Non-profit organisations which have suffered damages or losses as a result of the November 2010 to January 2011 floods or as a result of Cyclone Yasi can access funding assistance on three levels:

- **Special Disaster Assistance (Queensland Floods November 2010—January 2011).** Under this funding there is an initial amount of \$5,000 available to assist with immediate recovery followed up with a \$20,000 grant to recover costs you have paid in order to repair direct flood damage.
- **Natural Disaster Assistance.** This level of funding is a low interest \$105,000 loan and grant package to assist non-profit organisations to re-establish themselves by repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment, repairing or restoring essential premises including grounds, amenities and infrastructure or by supplying stock for up to one month to replace lost stock and to maintain liquidity of the organisation.
- **Exceptional Disaster Assistance.** This funding is designed to assist non-profit organisations that have suffered direct and extreme damage from either the floods or Tropical Cyclone Yasi. A loan and grant package up to \$650,000 may be available under this level of funding if your organisation has suffered extreme damage and the assistance available under the Special Disaster Assistance Scheme (grants up to \$25,000) and Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme (loan/grant up to \$105,000) is inadequate to meet your recovery needs. A low interest loan and grant package up to \$650,000 (including a grant up to \$50,000) can assist you to re-establish your organisation by covering costs such as repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment, repairing or replacing buildings, supplying up to one month of lost stock, meeting carry-on requirements, including sustenance, essential property operations or rent and rates.

Interested non-profit Sport and Recreation clubs may obtain further details of these streams of funding by accessing the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority website at:
www.graa.qld.gov.au.

The Bligh Government is committed to supporting sport and recreation organisations that have been impacted by the recent disasters and is actively assisting organisations, both in the Caboolture region and across Queensland, to re-establish community services that are so vital to local communities.

I thank the Member for his continued support for the Bligh Government's sport and recreation initiatives and community recovery.