

Question on Notice
No. 161
Asked on 9 March 2011

MR WETTENHALL asked the Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology (MR FINN)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what measures the department has in place to assist people to repair and rebuild buildings damaged by Cyclone Yasi and to support local firms, companies and tradespeople to win contracts and obtain employment in the rebuilding and reconstruction task?

ANSWER:

The Department of Public Works has had considerable involvement with areas of north Queensland that were devastated by Cyclone Yasi.

The Accommodation Office oversaw activities to prepare major government buildings within the predicted path of the cyclone. These activities helped to maximise the prospects of early recovery and return to normal business operations by the Queensland Government.

QBuild continues to be involved in the Cyclone Yasi recovery works in north Queensland with direct engagement in the recovery of Government assets, including schools and social housing.

QBuild is committed to the use of local contractors in all works, with its procurement procedures requiring that it always invites and uses its registered local contractors before inviting contractors from outside the immediate region or zone.

QBuild has used local contractors in Cyclone Yasi recovery works in all of its operations with only some specific and limited exceptions where local contractors were invited but could not meet the immediate requirements.

In addition, an officer from the department's Technical Services unit has visited the impacted area. The officer provided expert advice in developing an asbestos remediation strategy for use by QBuild's field staff assisting with the cleanup effort in the areas that were devastated by the storm surge at Tully Heads and Hull Heads.

Further, the Queensland Building Services Authority has opened an office in Bryant Street, Tully, known as the Cassowary Coast Office, to assist with the rebuilding effort following Cyclone Yasi. Services that are being offered are: rebuilding and general advice to homeowners; building inspections; free Natural Disaster Repair Contracts; licence renewals; Queensland Home Warranty Insurance; and contractor forums.