

Question on Notice

No. 409

Asked on 24 March 2011

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what the Bligh Government is doing to support sporting clubs in the electorate of Ipswich West affected by the 2011 flood and rain events?

ANSWER

The Bligh Government has responded quickly to the natural disaster events which caused considerable damage to sport and recreation facilities across large portions of the State, including Ipswich West.

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

- 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.

In addition, the Fightback Plan enables consideration of cases where paying an insurance excess would cause financial hardship.

Under the Fightback Plan, I have been very pleased to approve funding of \$13.3 million for 559 projects for sport and recreation training and playing equipment and infrastructure from applications across the State.

Of this, over \$300,000 in funding has been approved for 16 organisations in the electorate of Ipswich West. This includes:

- \$64,870 for Karalee Twin Rivers Junior Rugby League to replace the storage facility and damaged training and playing equipment;
- \$64,231 for Northern Suburbs Senior Rugby League Football Club Ipswich to replace damaged training and playing equipment and repair the club house;
- \$60,000 for Ipswich Golf Club to the repair of irrigation system and playing surfaces; and
- \$33,600 for Ipswich Softball to replace damaged training and playing equipment and repair the softball facilities.

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: <http://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 across Queensland, including Ipswich West, 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.