

Question on Notice

No. 660

Asked on 12 September 2013

MR HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (MR CRISAFULLI) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Newman Government is assisting Queensland councils with flood mitigation, in particular, in the Warrego Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Warrego for his question.

The Newman Government is planning for Queensland to be the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

To achieve this, we are working with councils to help them protect important community infrastructure and to build community resilience.

Just over \$4 billion is in this year's budget to re-build flood damaged state and local government infrastructure. In addition the Newman Government has provided approximately \$50 million in 2012–13 and 2013–14 to help councils with flood mitigation projects.

Approximately \$10.1 million of this has been provided to councils in the Warrego electorate. This includes a \$7.72 million Queensland Government contribution towards the construction of a much-needed flood levee for Roma, \$187,500 for a flood mitigation study of Chinchilla to investigate solutions to mitigate future flood events, a \$900,000 subsidy towards the St George flood levee and \$720,000 to relocate and elevate a pump station in Mitchell.

The \$80 million Queensland Betterment Fund has also been introduced to help local governments build stronger and more resilient infrastructure.

To date in 2013–14, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has approved \$48.5 million in betterment projects, of which \$20.2 million will be provided from the Betterment Fund. The remainder will be funded by a combination of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Restoration of Essential Public Assets funding and council contributions.

Councils in the Warrego electorate have submitted a number of projects, which are currently being assessed by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

We want our communities to be better prepared to deal with natural disasters when they occur and these initiatives will make a significant contribution to protecting people and property in the Warrego electorate.