

Question on Notice
No. 538
Asked on 3 April 2019

MR L MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

With respect to the recent weather event in North Queensland and flood victims being turned away from disaster centres during the catastrophic floods in the Townsville Region—

Will the Minister (a) advise if another emergency evacuation centre is required to support the southern suburbs of Townsville and (b) commit to supporting the William Ross State High School Parents and Citizens' proposal for construction of a new emergency evacuation centre?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

As the member would know, evacuations and evacuation centres – not 'disaster centres' – come under the control of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). This group has broad representation and can include police, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), councillors, charity organisations and Queensland Health. The group is chaired by the relevant mayor and has responsibility for evacuation planning and management.

The Townsville City Council website shows that of the five evacuation centres in the city during the height of this year's floods, one was at capacity for several hours while the other four continued to take evacuees.

QFES isn't directly involved with identifying, constructing or maintaining evacuation centres. During a disaster, however, QFES has historically helped by providing centres with items such as furniture, bedding, health and hygiene products, and food if, and when, required under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority, which does not belong to this portfolio, administers the Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund, which provides support for projects that increase resilience and better prepares Queensland communities for disasters.