

Question on Notice

No. 1452

Asked on 1 December 2022

MR J MCDONALD asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier advise what flood mitigation programs the State Government has made available in Southeast Queensland to provide flood mitigation works since the 2011 floods?

ANSWER:

Since 2011, our state has been impacted by more than 100 natural disaster events including floods, tropical cyclones and bushfires resulting in loss of life and billions of dollars of damage to public infrastructure.

In response to the 2011 floods the \$18 million Strengthening Grantham Together project saw the first-ever land swap deal to move the town up the hill and out of the path of floodwaters.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) delivered the *Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study* in 2017 and the *Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan* in 2019 to guide the delivery of a coordinated approach to managing flood risk across the Brisbane River floodplain, now and into the future.

The Flood Study and Strategic Plan respond to recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and were undertaken in partnership with Seqwater and the local governments of Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset.

QRA has also facilitated Betterment Funding in Queensland totalling more than \$263 million since 2013 to ensure damaged essential public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and floodways can better withstand the impact of future floods.

Since the first Betterment Fund was established, more than 520 projects across 70 local government areas in Queensland have been approved, helping to create stronger, more resilient Queensland communities. From an investment of \$137 million in projects that have been re-impacted, we have seen approximately \$391 million in avoided reconstruction costs.

In addition to these significant investments, QRA has delivered a number of funding programs that focus on specific priorities identified by local communities.

Since 2017, more than \$4 million has been distributed in South East Queensland¹ via the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF), the Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) to deliver more than 20 flood mitigation projects that were identified by their communities as priority projects.

Some of these targeted, local projects to mitigate flood impacts include:

- Flood Intelligence System for Ipswich City Council (\$305,000 through QRRRF 2020-21)
- Gregors Creek Road Culvert Upgrade for Somerset Regional Council (\$290,000 through QRRRF 2020-21)
- Mahoney Crossing Number 2 Floodway Upgrade for Scenic Rim Regional Council (\$420,000 through QRRRF 2019-20)
- Flood Classification Review for Lockyer Valley Regional Council (\$30,000 through QRRRF 2019-20)
- Lockyer Creek Catchment Model Review and Local Risk Management Planning for Lockyer Valley Regional Council (\$275,000 through NDRP 2017-18)
- Upgrade to Flood Warning System for Moreton Bay Region (\$260,000 through NDRP 2017-18)
- Christmas Creek Road Floodway for Scenic Rim Regional Council (\$256,000 through NDRP 2017-18).

Additional projects in South-East Queensland are forecast for delivery through the QRRRF funding rounds for 2021-22 and 2022-23.

In response to the flood events of 2021-22, a number of additional activities have been developed recently to assist South-East Queensland communities recover and build resilience to future disaster events. These include:

- The establishment of a \$170 million Betterment Fund to rebuild impacted assets to a more resilient standard to minimise the impact of future disasters on Queensland communities.
- The establishment of the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund for flood-affected Queensland homeowners to retrofit, raise flood affected homes or fund councils to voluntarily buy-back homes at high risk to future floods.
- QRA is currently coordinating the submission of flood infrastructure projects for the Commonwealth's \$75 million Emergency Response Fund Recovery and Resilience Program 2021-22 for Queensland. These flood infrastructure projects will specifically support local councils impacted by the recent flood events.

¹ Areas identified as South East Queensland are the communities in the South East Resilience Region, which are Brisbane City Council, City of Gold Coast, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Redland City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council