Question on Notice
No. 200
Asked on 16 March 2022

Mr S Knuth asked Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier advise what policies have been implemented and what funding has been allocated towards flood mitigation since the last floods events in 2019 in North Queensland and 2011 in South East Queensland?

ANSWER:

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in the nation and was the first to have a dedicated disaster recovery organisation, with the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in 2011.

QRA is the state's lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and flood mitigation policy. QRA activities include the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks, effective state recovery from disaster impacts and improving resilience of communities for potential disasters.

QRA has refined the data and learnings from each of the 94 disasters to hit Queensland over the past decade to streamline its processes and develop better strategies and policies to deal with future natural disaster events and make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in the nation. I am advised that these include:

- *Planning for stronger, more resilient floodplains* (Part 1, 2011, and Part 2, 2013)
- *Queensland Floodplain Assessment Overlay* (2012)
- *Floodplain Mapping Implementation Kit* (2014)
- *Queensland Flood Mapping Program and Flood Check* (2015)
- *Guide for Flood Studies and Mapping in Queensland* (2016)
- *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience* (2017)
- *Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience* (2017)
- *Resilient Queensland 2018-2021*
- *Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy* (2018)
- *Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework* (2019)
- *Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* (2019)
- *Cyclone Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* (2019)
- *Storm Tide Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* (2019)
- *Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan* (2019)
- *Queensland Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Approach* (2020)
- *Fitzroy Regional Flood Resilience Strategy* (2020)
- *Mary Regional Resilience Strategy* (2020)
- *Central West Regional Resilience Strategy* (2020)
- *Building Resilience to Natural Disaster Collaboration Guide* (2020)
- *Flood Classifications in Queensland* (2020)
- *Regional Guideline for Flood Awareness Mapping and Communication* (2020)
- *Bushfire Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* (2020)
- *Resilient Queensland in Action* (2020)
- *Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework* (2021)

- *Burdekin and Haughton Flood Resilience Strategy* (2021)
- *Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan* (2021)
- *Economic Assessment Framework for Flood Risk Management Projects* (2021).

Queensland is also the only state in Australia with an implementation plan underpinning a disaster resilience strategy.

Under the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience*, QRA is working to ensure every region across Queensland is part of a locally led and regionally coordinated blueprint to strengthen disaster resilience.

Regional resilience strategies and local resilience action plans will help to keep Queenslanders safe by providing a coordinated approach to identify and prioritise disaster resilience actions.

In terms of funding, since it was established in 2011, QRA has managed a recovery and reconstruction program in excess of $17.2 billion.

QRA has administered more than $600 million across a wide range of programs to deliver resilience and mitigation activities, many of which have been funded 50-50 with the Commonwealth. Some of these key programs have included:

- Strengthening Grantham – $18 million
- Toowoomba Flood Mitigation – $20 million
- Brisbane Riverwalk and Ferry Terminals – $145 million
- Queensland Betterment Programs in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 – $263.85 million
- Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Funds (2020, 2021, 2022) – $39.3 million
- Levees for Forrest Hill, Laidley, Maryborough, Charleville and Roma – $41.5 million
- Flood Warning Infrastructure Network – $15.85 million
- North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program – $10 million (State funded)
- Get Ready Queensland grants to councils – $18 million consisting of $2 million annually since 2013 (State funded)
- Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund 2018-19 – $9.6 million (State Funded)
- Tropical Cyclone Debbie resilience and mitigation activities – $5.7 million (State funded
- Natural Disaster Resilience Program 2017-18 – $14.5 million.

Following the 2019 Floods in North Queensland, QRA secured a $242 million package under Categories C and D of the joint State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support recovery and resilience efforts.

This included a flexible grants program, community health and wellbeing programs, as well as economic and business support.

In addition, funding was injected into the North West Queensland Beef Recovery Package, the Environmental Recovery Package, Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, as well as local projects of significance to strengthen and restore regional economies, businesses, the environment and tourism.

It also provided a major investment in building the resilience of infrastructure that was damaged through the $102 million Betterment program that saw 107 infrastructure projects approved to be built back stronger and more resilient to withstand the impacts of future disasters.

Details of all these policies and programs are publicly available on QRA's website at www.qra.qld.gov.au

Following the three most recent flooding events in Queensland, additional Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been activated resulting in a further $1.5 billion being approved across a range of activities. This includes the Resilient Residential Recovery Package, valued at $741 million, which provides several options to mitigate against flooding such as retrofitting, house-raising or the voluntary buy-back of homes at high risk from future floods.