

Question on Notice

No. 874

Asked on 30 August 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Deputy Premier's comments in early March regarding changes to planning laws due to recent flood events— Will the Deputy Premier advise what actions have been taken regarding these changes and any timeframes for changes to planning laws?

ANSWER:

Since 2011, Queensland and local governments have completed extensive work to improve multi-hazard resilience (such as flood, cyclone (severe storm and wind), bushfire, earthquake and heatwave), including:

- the release of the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan which provides the framework for a consistent approach to managing flood risk across the floodplain;
- by 2022, every region across Queensland will be 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. The delivery of Regional Resilience Strategies - a key outcome of Resilient Queensland: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience;
- The *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24* (the Plan) documents local activities, regional recovery and resilience priorities, along with government initiatives and funding to provide a single coherent pathway to recovery.

Leading our approach to resilience is the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, where eligible Queenslanders will receive funding to repair and retrofit their house, raise their house or in some circumstances have their property purchased under the Voluntary Home Buy Back (VHBB) scheme. As of 8 September 2022, 153 homeowners have been approved to take part in the VHBB in eight local government areas (Brisbane, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Logan, Lockyer Valley, Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast).

For homes purchased under the VHBB, it is intended that the land would then be re-zoned to an appropriate and contextually suitable non-occupied use (such as open space or green corridors). This is a nation-leading program, which will change people's lives by improving their resilience to future flooding or removing them from harm's way altogether.

State and local governments will continue to evolve their land use planning regulations and processes to further scrutinise what can and cannot be built on floodplains with a view to reducing the risk of future impacts to habitable development. The development of locally-led and regionally coordinated plans will help to ensure that where any changes are required to the planning framework, they are fit-for-purpose.

The Queensland Government will continue to investigate whether any further changes to planning and building laws are required to support the recovery from the recent flood events.