

## Question on Notice

No. 977

Asked on 1 September 2022

**MR N DAMETTO** 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 joint Queensland and Australian Governments' Voluntary Home Buy Back Program for those in 39 eligible Local Government Area's (LGA'S) having been activated for Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements—

Will the Deputy Premier advise if the State Government will extend the Voluntary Buy Back program to North Queensland LGA's which were not activated, so that property owners whose homes are regularly inundated with floodwater during significant weather events can be afforded the same opportunity for buy back?

ANSWER:

The Resilient Homes Fund, a component of which is the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, has been made available for flood impacted homes in areas activated for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) assistance for one or more of the following flooding events in 2021–22:

- Central, Southern, and Eastern Queensland rainfall and flooding – 10 November to 3 December 2021
- Ex-tropical Cyclone Seth – 29 December 2021 to 10 January 2022
- South-East Queensland rainfall and flooding – 22 February to 5 April 2022
- Southern Queensland flooding – 6 to 20 May 2022.

Under the DRFA rules, local government areas not activated for any of these flooding events under the DRFA are not eligible for the Resilient Homes Fund.

The Queensland Government recognises the need to support and build resilience against disasters particularly for the North Queensland region. As such, it has made available specific funding for the region, including:

- the *Household Resilience Program*, which provided grants to residential homeowners to improve resilience against cyclones
- the *North Queensland Strata Title Inspection Program*, which is currently underway and provides free inspections and reports on increasing resilience of strata title properties
- *2021–22 North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program*, a \$10 million program to help councils in North and Far North Queensland reduce their disaster risk and lower the cost of insurance for residents, businesses and the community

- Flood Warning Infrastructure Program, with 180 new flood warning infrastructure assets delivered in 2020–21 for 28 councils in the Far North, Northwest, Townsville and surrounds as part of the \$8 million project.

The Queensland Government will continue to make resilience building a priority, including implementing new ways to build resilience to disasters.