

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 522**

**Asked on 9 May 2023**

**MR N DAMETTO** ASKED TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (HON C DICK)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the rising costs of living and specifically, rising insurance premiums in North Queensland—

Will the Treasurer commit to temporarily abolishing stamp duty on North Queensland home, contents, and strata insurance products until such time as the cyclone reinsurance pool delivers lower premiums?

### **ANSWER:**

Insurance affordability is a key cost of living issue, not just in North Queensland but across the state and nationally.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing substantial and targeted relief to vulnerable households impacted by general cost of living pressures and interest rate increases.

In the 2022-23 State Budget, the Queensland Government provided more than \$6.7 billion in concessions and subsidies to support Queenslanders with cost-of-living relief. This is a more than 10 per cent increase compared with 2021-22.

Policy levers to address insurance affordability rest with the Australian Government.

The Australian Government's \$10 billion Reinsurance Pool commenced on 1 July 2022. The Queensland Government's submission to the Reinsurance Pool Taskforce highlighted the importance of ensuring the reinsurance pool delivers benefits to Queenslanders sooner, with the Australian Government providing a guarantee that insurers will be passing on any savings to consumers in full.

The Queensland Government is continuing to closely monitor the effectiveness of the reinsurance pool in delivering lower insurance premiums in north Queensland.

To help improve insurance affordability, the Queensland Government has taken a range of actions to enhance mitigation, through initiatives such as the \$65 million Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, \$100 million Queensland Betterment Fund, and \$41.5 million Household Resilience Program.

Successive State Budgets have built on the Queensland Government's prior action.

The 2022-23 Queensland Budget provided a further \$20 million over two years to extend the successful Household Resilience Program to its third phase. Phases 1 and 2 saw a total of over 3,500 North Queenslanders receiving a grant, and these recipients were able to negotiate around a 9 per cent premium reduction on average.