



# Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: QldRAVAH - TF/11/11107 - DOC/11/71192

19 MAY 2011

Councillor Peter Maguire  
Mayor of Central Highlands Regional Council  
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Dear Councillor Maguire

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2011 concerning flood impacts on the people and businesses in the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) area.

I note your interest in ensuring the welfare of people in your region after the recent devastating floods. While the State Government is working hard to rebuild Queensland, the welfare of people remains the Government's highest priority.

As you may be aware, I was pleased to recently announce, together with the Prime Minister, a \$39 million package under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to assist Queensland communities with the challenges associated with long-term recovery. People in the CHRC area, including those in Emerald who have been significantly affected by the recent disasters, are expected to benefit from the additional funding.

Some elements of the package include:

- \$20 million to provide intensive support to the State's most highly impacted local communities, including supporting not-for-profit community groups
- \$10 million for a Mental Health Disaster Recovery Package to support the mental health sector
- \$5.8 million for financial counselling support and
- a \$2 million disabilities care plan to help non-government organisations to deliver crisis accommodation and respite care for people with a disability.

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) has officers working in your area to support businesses at recovery centre meetings. Those officers have also been door knocking in Emerald, Comet, Rolleston, Springsure and Capella. DEEDI officers have been working one-on-one with people and businesses in addition to working with your council to provide the best possible local support.

QFCI

Date: 26/05/11 JM

Exhibit Number: 490



Queensland  
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Locals can also call the Community Recovery Line on telephone 1800 173 349 for further information on what assistance is available.

I would like to also draw your attention to a new insurance guide launched earlier this month by Legal Aid Queensland. The self-help guide is called, *When disaster strikes — cyclones, storms and floods: A guide to getting your insurance claim paid*, and is designed to assist Queenslanders with their insurance claims after the recent natural disasters.

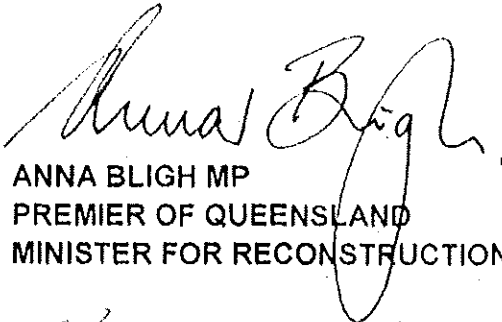
The guide provides a range of important information, including how to submit an insurance claim, understanding what insurance policies cover, how to prove the cause of damage to property, and options for people if a claim is refused.

The CHRC received advance funding of \$13.2 million to accelerate the reconstruction process. Unlike in the past where payments were made to councils after works were completed, we are expediting the flow of reconstruction dollars into impacted communities. Your council was one of 51 disaster-affected councils to benefit from the \$406 million funding injection.

I have been advised that you have had discussions with representatives from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) on 6 April 2011, regarding proposed infrastructure projects, and these discussions will continue with both the Authority and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Thank you again for drawing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely

  
ANNA BLIGH MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Peter, I hope the community welfare resources are starting to make a difference for the people in your area who need help.  
