

Question on Notice
No. 113
Asked on 8 March 2011

Mrs Attwood asked the Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology (MR FINN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the great work QBuild has been doing in flood affected areas in the Mt Ommaney Electorate— Will the Minister inform the House on the work of QBuild staff to assist community recovery following the natural disasters affecting Queensland?

ANSWER:

In late December 2010 through to January 2011, Queensland sustained widespread flooding, with the initial impact areas being through central and western Queensland, followed by significant impacts in the south east corner with the Lockyer Valley, Brisbane and Ipswich among the hardest hit areas.

During QBuild's immediate response across all parts of Queensland, approximately 600 QBuild staff and around 210 contractors were involved in the assessment, clean up and recovery effort.

Works undertaken by QBuild staff and contractors included full cleaning and debris removal; electrical checks and the assessment and repair or replacement of floor coverings; cupboards; kitchens; doors; other joinery; landscaping; fences; internal walls; hot water systems; pump systems; lifts and air-conditioning condensers. Works also included the provision of temporary power and engineering fault-finding.

During the flood recovery efforts in the Mt Ommaney electorate, QBuild staff attended to many sites including the Centenary State High School; the Centenary North Police Beat/Residence; the Corinda State High School; the Corinda State School; the Jamboree Heights State School; the Jindalee State School; the Oxley State School and the Yuingi Childcare Centre in Oxley.

With the amount of clean up required so close to the commencement of the school year, QBuild worked tirelessly to ensure that the schools were able to open for the beginning of the 2011 school year.

The Centenary North Police Beat/Residence was one of the centres that was evacuated due to inundation. QBuild worked around the clock to ensure that the police returned to their centre and were fully operational to service the community in the shortest possible time.

Following the impact of Tropical Cyclone Yasi, QBuild has been at the forefront in leading the recovery effort relating to Queensland Government built assets and infrastructure across impacted communities.

Close to 1800 Government assets including Government owned residences were damaged in varying degrees as a result of Tropical Cyclone Yasi. QBuild dispatched approximately 90 staff members from other areas in Queensland to travel to north Queensland immediately after the cyclone. These staff members joined the north Queensland based staff members to clear tree debris, clean buildings and conduct immediate repairs where possible. QBuild also engaged registered local contractors to assist with the recovery efforts.

In the communities of Tully Heads and Hull Heads, which were devastated by storm surges, QBuild was called upon by government for its expertise and resource capacity to undertake significant clean up works with a focus on protecting the health and safety of the community. QBuild was tasked with the responsibility for the management of clean up of debris and broken asbestos cement sheeting.

QBuild has completed the enormous task of cleaning up broken asbestos cement sheeting and removing significant quantities of sand and earth material that contained asbestos debris from public areas and within private properties. Long arm excavators were used to remove large and small items from the mangrove areas in conjunction with QBuild staff conducting visual inspections and removal.

QBuild also carried out other health related works in these communities including the pumping and sealing of septic tanks and some swimming pools and conducting electrical inspections to allow for Ergon Energy to re-connect electricity to private properties.