

Question on Notice

No. 600

Asked on 10 May 2011

MRS ATTWOOD, Member for Mount Ommaney asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the House with an update on the recovery of sporting groups in the electorate of Mt Ommaney following receipt of flood fight back funding?

ANSWER

Community and business groups, including sporting organisations, were severely impacted by the natural disasters that occurred across Queensland early this year. In response to the disasters, the Bligh Government has redirected resources to help these organisations, often the lifeblood of local communities, to get back on their feet.

On 28 January 2011, I announced the Sport and Recreation Flood Fightback Plan to assist sport and active recreation organisations impacted by the natural disasters. The Fightback Plan, for which 628 applications were received, closed on 18 March 2011 and included:

- financial assistance of up to \$12,500 to sport and recreation clubs that have suffered damage to non-insured essential sporting and recreation training and playing equipment
- up to \$60,000 as a financial contribution towards non-insured structural and participation spaces, including facilities such as tennis courts and sporting ovals
- an advice referral service through the Community Recovery Hotline to assist affected sport and recreation clubs seeking advice or assistance with complex needs
- a linking service to match volunteer tradespersons with sport and recreation organisations
- access to specialist technical advice including engineering, building, insurance and restoration.

To date, I am happy to report I have approved funding under this initiative totalling \$14.2 million for 417 projects and many tennis clubs across the State.

In the Mount Ommaney electorate, 18 applications for funds totalling \$538,272 were approved to replace infrastructure and equipment, as follows:

- Centenary Rowing Club—\$60,000
- Corinda Horse and Pony Club—\$60,000
- Jindalee Bowls Club—\$60,000
- Jindalee Districts Australian Football Club—\$60,000
- Jindalee Golf Club—\$60,000
- Oxley Bowls Club—\$60,000
- The McLeod Country Golf Club—\$60,000
- Centenary Branch Little Athletics Centre—\$12,500
- Centenary Rowing Club—\$12,500
- Corinda Horse and Pony Club—\$12,500
- Jindalee Bowls Club—\$12,500
- Jindalee Districts Australian Football Club—\$12,500
- Jindalee Golf Club—\$12,500
- The McLeod Country Golf Club—\$12,500
- Rivercity Waterpolo Club—\$11,624
- Oxley Bowls Club—\$10,950
- Jindalee Swimming Club—\$4,430
- Centenary Archers Club—\$3,768.

I am also pleased to advise the total funds approved in the Mount Ommaney electorate have been paid to these organisations and all projects have commenced. Four of the projects are nearing completion.

Additionally, the Bligh Government provided sporting clubs that were unsure about the impacts of storm and flood waters on their facilities with specialist technical advice to guide them in their decision making. This service, also provided under the Flood Fightback Plan, included advice on engineering, building, insurance issues and restoring playing fields after water inundation. A total of 185 organisations telephoned the Sport and Recreation Flood Fightback Plan advice and referral service.

The Join Forces Program, administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, will connect flood and cyclone affected sporting clubs, community groups and other organisations with corporate and private sponsors who can help them with the huge task of rebuilding and getting their club or group up and running again. Interested sport and recreation organisations can register their interest on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's website at www.qldreconstruction.org.au/joining-forces.

The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority is administering a range of funding for the Federal Government's Natural Disasters Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Non-profit organisations which have suffered damages or losses as a result of the November 2010 to January 2011 floods or as a result of Cyclone Yasi can access funding assistance on three levels:

- **Special Disaster Assistance (Queensland Floods November 2010—January 2011).** Under this funding there is an initial amount of \$5,000 available to assist with immediate recovery followed up with a \$20,000 grant to recover costs you have paid in order to repair direct flood damage.
- **Natural Disaster Assistance.** This level of funding is a low interest \$105,000 loan and grant package to assist non-profit organisations to re-establish themselves by repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment, repairing or restoring essential premises including grounds, amenities and infrastructure or by supplying stock for up to one month to replace lost stock and to maintain liquidity of the organisation.
- **Exceptional Disaster Assistance.** This funding is designed to assist non-profit organisations that have suffered direct and extreme damage from either the floods or Tropical Cyclone Yasi. A loan and grant package up to \$650,000 may be available under this level of funding if your organisation has suffered extreme damage and the assistance available under the Special Disaster Assistance Scheme (grants up to \$25,000) and Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme (loan/grant up to \$105,000) is inadequate to meet your recovery needs. A low interest loan and grant package up to \$650,000 (including a grant up to \$50,000) can assist you to re-establish your organisation by covering costs such as repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment, repairing or replacing buildings, supplying up to one month of lost stock, meeting carry-on requirements, including sustenance, essential property operations or rent and rates.

Interested non-profit Sport and Recreation clubs may obtain further details of these streams of funding by accessing the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority website at www.qraa.qld.gov.au.

The Bligh Government is committed to supporting sport and recreation organisations that have been impacted by the recent disasters and is actively assisting organisations across Queensland, including in the Mount Ommaney area, to re-establish community services that are so vital to local communities.

I thank the Member for her continued support for the Queensland Government's sport and recreation initiatives and community recovery.