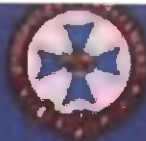




Jason COSTIGAN MP

Member for Whitsunday

Shadow Assistant Minister to the Opposition Leader for North Queensland



21 July 2017

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: 5517T1306	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 AUG 2017	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
MP: MS GILBERT	
Clerk's Signature: <i>M. Gilbert</i>	

Dear Prime Minister *Malcolm*

I write to you in relation to Tropical Cyclone Debbie, which as you know, devastated a significant part of Queensland, especially the Whitsundays, in March 2017.

Specifically, I draw your attention to the decision to reject Category D disaster assistance funding to the Mackay-Whitsunday region, including assistance for infrastructure projects such as Shute Harbour in the Whitsundays.

Without doubt, Shute Harbour was significantly damaged by Category 4 TC Debbie and I was stunned upon hearing the news from Canberra in relation to Category D funding. I was actually at Shute Harbour at the time, where local tourism operators are still trying to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

Admittedly, we didn't lose lives here like we did in 1970 with Tropical Cyclone Ada but the Whitsundays has been seriously impacted, in particular, our tourism and sugar industries which make a significant contribution to our GRP and GDP.

I genuinely believe the Whitsundays has been duded in relation to Category D assistance and respectfully ask that you intervene as soon as possible.

As a way of background, Shute Harbour, owned by the Whitsunday Regional Council, was once the second busiest passenger port in the nation behind Sydney's Circular Quay. To this day, it remains a vital logistics hub for our iconic Whitsunday Islands, remembering that the Whitsundays in recent times has also emerged as the No.1 gateway to the iconic Great Barrier Reef, eclipsing Cairns and the Far North.

I invite you back to the Whitsundays to stand alongside myself and other elected representatives at Shute Harbour to announce an expanded package of disaster recovery payments to help our community to get back on track.

Given that many constituents are hurting financially, emotionally and otherwise in the wake of the cyclone, I look forward to your reply as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Jason Costigan
JASON COSTIGAN MP
MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND