Funding for local councils to boost community infrastructure

Councils across Queensland will be better prepared to face natural disasters and build and upgrade vital infrastructure with $63 million allocated in the 2015-16 State Budget.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver a new $40 million Community Resilience Fund to help councils mitigate against natural disasters and $23 million through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies program for shovel-ready projects to build vital community infrastructure.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said the Community Resilience Fund would allow local governments to protect existing infrastructure, help communities become more resilient and reduce future expenditure on asset restoration after a natural disaster.

“The Community Resilience Fund delivers on the Palaszczuk Government’s election commitment to support local governments to mitigate against the impact of natural disasters on their communities and infrastructure,” Ms Trad said.

“The funding will ensure local government are able to protect existing public infrastructure, boost their communities resilience and minimise future expenditure on restoring assets damaged in the wake of a future disaster.”

Eligible projects funded under the Community Resilience Fund include those which address urban flood and cyclone mitigation infrastructure gaps such as levees, detention basins, stormwater systems and shelters and projects which identify and address bushfire mitigation risk strategies across the Queensland.

Ms Trad said councils struggling to deal with Queensland’s crippling drought would also be able to benefit from almost $23 million in grants for shovel-ready projects that would keep jobs in towns and regions that were doing it tough.

“With more than 80 percent of Queensland now drought declared the $23 million fund from the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program will be vital to the creation and retention of council jobs,” Ms Trad said.

“The Palaszczuk Government is acting to support Queenslanders in drought-affected areas in dire need.”

Eligible projects that can be funded under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program include water infrastructure, town centre rejuvenation and watering stations at stock points in drought declared areas.

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