

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND LTD.

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10 March 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Secretary,

Since early December 2010, Queensland has been hit by an unprecedented and prolonged period of natural disasters - floods, cyclones, severe storms and intense monsoonal rain. Currently 70 of the state's 73 local governments are activated under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

In the past few years, the damages bill for the restoration of council assets as a result of natural disasters has ranged between \$85 million and \$100 million. Initial estimates of the damages since December 2010 is \$2.5 billion - some 25 times greater than any previous year.

In this context, the Association has welcomed the Australian government's commitment to fund its share of the costs under the NDRRA. In particular, the Association expresses its sincere thanks to the government, along with the Queensland government, for the recently announced extension of the coverage under the exceptional circumstances provisions for the restoration of water, sewerage and transport infrastructure and day labour costs not normally funded.

In relation to the Flood Levy, the subject of the Committee's deliberations, the Association acknowledges the right of the government of the day to determine the fiscal measure necessary to fund its obligations. The Association is not in a position to comment on the appropriateness or otherwise of the measures chosen.

In conclusion, the Local Government Association of Queensland records its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Australian government for its support of Queensland communities during the recent floods and cyclones.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Hoffman PSM
GENERAL MANAGER - ADVOCATE