1. An exceptional monsoonal rain event affected Queensland during the last week of February and the first week of March. The Bureau of Meteorology estimates that 403 cubic kilometres of rain fell across the Northern Territory and Queensland. This came on top of two earlier rainfall events over the previous three months. As a result, extensive reaches of South West Queensland experienced their worst flooding in living memory.
2. An appreciable number of residents suffered loss of property and personal effects, and there has been an immediate impact upon social, physical and emotional needs. More than 2470 residents have received financial assistance, with counselling made available. Over 550 dwellings have been damaged. The Queensland Government set up a Reconstruction Taskforce to drive the repair program.
3. Although roads and railways suffered widespread damage, the rain is expected to provide a substantial boost to the agricultural sector and, as a consequence, other local businesses that have been impacted by the long running drought.
4. Early on the morning of Sunday 21 March 2010, Category 3 Tropical Cyclone ULUI made landfall in the vicinity of Airlie Beach. Warnings had been issued over the preceding days, and communities from Townsville to Mackay had had ample time to prepare themselves. To aid preparations, a disaster situation was declared the day before ULUI came ashore.
5. The worst impact was sustained loss of power to significant parts of the community. Over 64,500 consumers initially lost electric power and, after 5 days, 2400 customers were still without mains electricity. Damage to private dwellings was relatively minor. Major port infrastructure at Mackay and Hay Point suffered some damage.
6. Most tourism operations have returned to normal, though adverse media coverage has led to short-term cancellations. There will be some impacts to the sugar cane and vegetable industries. The fishing fleet was not damaged. No State Government building suffered major structural damage.
7. Cabinet noted the impacts on residents, industry and infrastructure, and government activity to address these impacts.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil