



SENATOR THE HON KATE LUNDY

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Reference no: CA11-11-354

Mr Richard Prowse
PO Box 186
Chirnside Park VIC 3116

10 MAR 2011

Dear Mr Prowse

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister of 15 January 2011 expressing your concern about the floods in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Floods have exceeded record levels in many locations and have caused loss of life and significant damage to property and the livelihood of many within the community.

All Australians have been both saddened by the heartbreaking loss of life and moved by the incredible courage that so many Australians have shown. The community is demonstrating an amazing degree of resilience by pulling together strongly in the face of this unprecedented disaster. The efforts of emergency services, defence forces, police and volunteers in responding to the disaster have also been truly outstanding.

The Commonwealth Government is working closely with the state governments to ensure effective and continuing coordination in responding to and recovering from these floods. The Australian and state governments are providing a range of assistance to individuals, businesses and primary producers. These include personal hardship and distress assistance to individuals in those areas worst hit, concessional interest rate loans and freight subsidies for businesses, and recovery grants for primary producers and small businesses.

The Queensland and other floods highlight the need for communities to become more resilient to extreme climate events. 'Resilience' refers to the capacity to withstand and recover from disasters and means sharing responsibility among individuals, communities and businesses for understanding and managing the risks they confront. This approach has received strong support from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, particularly the emphasis on shared responsibility.

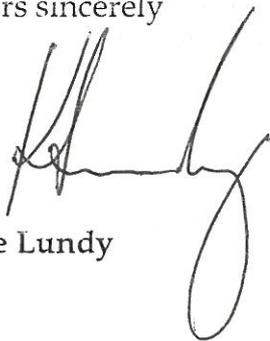
Implementing this approach will require policies in areas beyond emergency management, including in insurance, land management and building regulation.

I have been heartened to see the way in which communities all over Australia are working together to directly assist those affected by the recent disasters, and to raise funds for recovery. I am sure that 'Legends' Australian Football League games would make a positive contribution. You might like to approach the Australian Football League to gauge potential support for your proposal.

The Prime Minister has asked me to assure you that the Commonwealth Government is doing, and will continue to do, all it can to respond to those in need now and into the future.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Lundy', with a large, stylized loop at the end of the signature.

Kate Lundy