



**MATT SMITH** MP

**MEMBER FOR LEICHHARDT**



Mayor Bruce Gibson  
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council  
1 Muni Street  
Hope Vale, QLD 4895

7 April 2026

Dear Mayor Gibson,

I am writing to draw to your attention the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) and the information they have in regards to proponents/local governments seeking funding for cyclone shelters for their communities.

The recent weather event with cyclone Narelle has drawn attention to the lack of evacuation shelters in many of our remote communities, and it is timely to bring the discussion back into focus on what the next steps are.

The DRF is the Australian Government's flagship initiative for disaster resilience and risk reduction, working in partnership with States and Territory Government agencies who are responsible for emergency management. One example of this is the Kowanyama Hub, that was successful in securing funding for a multipurpose disaster coordination centre, that can also operate outside of disasters as somewhere the community can host a range of programs.

It is important for local governments to be able to have an understanding of how DRF can roll out for different projects, and I urge you and your council to reach out to the QLD Reconstruction Authority as soon as possible to be able to discuss any potential applications with them on [disasterreadyfund@qra.qld.gov.au](mailto:disasterreadyfund@qra.qld.gov.au)

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Kind Regards

**Matt Smith MP**  
**Federal Member for Leichhardt**

@matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au ☎ 07 4051 2220

📍 Suite 3 & 4, 200 Mulgrave Rd, Cairns 4870 • 100 Douglas (Cnr Blackall) St, Thursday Island, 4875