1. Queensland experienced significant and widespread flooding over large areas of the State during December 2010 and January 2011, culminating in approximately 70% of the State being subject to disaster area declarations affecting 60% of Queensland’s population. Tropical Cyclone Yasi crossed the Queensland coast as a category 5 severe tropical cyclone on 2 February 2011 and moved inland on 3 February 2011. Disaster area declarations have been made for 19 local government areas in North Queensland affected by the cyclone.
2. In view of the scale of devastation caused by the floods and cyclone, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill 2011 establishes the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as a new independent statutory authority to manage and coordinate the Government’s program of infrastructure reconstruction and recovery within disaster-affected communities.
3. The operations of the Authority will be overseen by a Board comprising a chairperson, nominees of the Australian Government and the Local Government Association of Queensland, and three other members.
4. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill also includes additional flood-related amendments to the *Building Act 1975* and the *Land Valuation Act 2010* to allow for the relaxation of statutory requirements relating to swimming pool fencing and the issuing of valuation notices and building surveying technicians, and to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* to allow the suspension of deemed approvals during disaster situations.
5. Cabinet approved that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill 2011 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible.
6. Cabinet approved that the following nominees be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Board:
* Major-General Mick Slater (chairperson)
* Jim McKnoulty
* Kathy Hirschfeld
* Steve Golding
* Brad Orgill (Australian Government nominee)
* Glenys Beauchamp (Australian Government nominee)
* Brian Guthrie (Local Government Association of Queensland nominee)
1. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill 2011](Attachments/QldReconAB11.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Bill 2011](Attachments/QldReconAB11Exp.pdf)