

# Charities sharing flood knowledge

THE "good intelligence" that on-the-ground charities are able to share with governments to gauge the effectiveness of their programs was one of the benefits of a recent roundtable meeting convened in Mount Isa, according to Susan Dowling.

The founder of the highly-regarded Sisters of the North charity was one of a number of groups working on recovery efforts that was invited to take part in the meeting by the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency.

"Collectively in that room there were people responsible for millions of dollars," she said.

"(NQLIRA CEO) Shane Stone acknowledged how much we do.

"We're in close contact with people, we have an emotional connection, and we can create a picture for the government as to whether their programs are working. We have good intelligence to pass back, of people who are still needing assistance."

Mr Stone said it had been a good opportunity to share information and build networks, and to discuss ways for everyone to work together over the coming months

ties back on their feet.

Representatives from Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul, Sisters of the North, Restocking the North West, GIVIT, BlazeAid, CWA, Rural Aid and Drought Angels took part, and Mount Isa-based mining company Glencore was also represented, thanks to their contribution to local fundraising efforts.

An NQLIRA spokesman said topics included how the work of charitable organisations could best complement the government's response; the different ways charities were working with local councils to identify needs; and tips for charities supporting disaster relief, including compliance tips.

Rural Aid's head of corporate relations, Richard Forbes congratulated Shane Stone for taking the initiative.

"The charities felt it was particularly important to work in a more coordinated way to achieve the most effective outcomes. We are now looking at how we progress this."

— SALLY CRIPPS



Representatives from charities providing support in the flood-affected north west with NQLIRA CEO Shane Stone.