




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Dam Warning Systems, Independent Review

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.29 pm): Today I can advise the House that the Inspector-General of Emergency Management has been commissioned to undertake an independent review into the warning systems provided by Seqwater and SunWater to communities downstream of their dams. This follows my request to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services for the Inspector-General to review current communication systems and ways to improve them.

It is crucial for communities, including irrigators, living and working downstream of dams to receive timely and clear notifications of any controlled dam gate openings. Queenslanders have shown great resilience in dealing with extreme weather, but it is important for communities to be informed and prepared. A record 183 millimetres of rain fell across South-East Queensland during the 1 May flood, which is the highest since records began in 1840. When concerns were—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, the minister does not need your support. I call the minister.

Mr BAILEY: When concerns were raised by Mid Brisbane River Irrigators about Seqwater's notifications for controlled water releases on 1 May, I called in the CEO and stressed the importance of providing concise, clear and accurate communications to the community and all stakeholders.

Considerable changes have been made to dam operations in recent years, including those that arose from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. The Inspector-General's review will focus on Seqwater and SunWater's gated dams, including Wivenhoe and Callide. It will be an open and inclusive process, and I encourage members of parliament and the communities they represent to take part. I table the terms of reference.

Tabled paper: Terms of reference—Review of Seqwater and SunWater warning communications during flood events [[430](#)].