




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2017

ADJOURNMENT

2011 Floods

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.54 pm): It is now more than six years since the 2011 floods and their catastrophic impact on thousands of people who live in Brisbane, Ipswich and other affected areas. At that time in my seat of Yeerongpilly, 167 streets were flood affected and in many of those streets nearly every house was badly damaged, including in the suburbs of Fairfield, Yeronga, Rocklea and Salisbury. In the wake of the disaster, which of course is still all too strongly remembered by many people today, the Brisbane City Council commissioned an investigation by AECOM into the measures that could be employed to minimise flooding risk in those areas and across Brisbane. Within eighteen months, the AECOM report identified 51 locations for the future installation of backflow valves to prevent floodwaters backing up through the drainage system into local properties and homes.

Since that time, some locations have been funded and backflow valves have been installed, yet on the Southside a large number of locations have still not been funded or had valves installed, more than a half decade after the impacts of that terrible time. While backflow valves have been installed in suburbs such as Auchenflower, New Farm, Milton, Rosalie, the CBD and West End, there are a long list of locations in my constituency and nearby that remain unfunded and ignored by the Brisbane City Council. Those include Brougham Street, Mearns Street, Victoria Street and Sharp Street, Fairfield; Tuckett Road, Salisbury; and Ormadale Road, Ormonde Road and Ortive Street, Yeronga. Additionally, nearby locations in the current state seat of Indooroopilly are unfunded to date by the LNP Brisbane City Council: King Arthur Terrace, Tennyson; Victoria Ave, Chelmer; and Giraween Park, Graceville.

To the best of my knowledge, those locations have no scheduled date for funded anti-flooding backflow valve installations other than being beyond the current 2016-17 financial year. In other words, to be frank, they are on the never-never and my constituents deserve much better than that. This lack of commitment by the Brisbane City Council to the area I represent is simply wrong. I certainly acknowledge the strong and consistent advocacy on this issue to date by Independent Councillor Nicole Johnson, despite the deaf ears of the council itself over many years. Local residents in those suburbs deserve equal treatment and respect to other more high-profile suburbs of the city. Likewise, it has to be noted that the current LNP state member for Indooroopilly has not delivered to residents on King Arthur Terrace, Giraween Park and Victoria Avenue with his LNP colleagues in City Hall, before deserting them to run for a seat on the north side.

I will be writing to Lord Mayor Quirk to urge him to start taking the south side seriously in terms of backflow valve installations to the same degree as other Brisbane suburbs that have already received them. The 2016-17 Brisbane City Council budget is the perfect opportunity to do that and I will be urging the Lord Mayor to give the south side a fair go.