



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Bushfires, Roads**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): Queenslanders in recent weeks have been through one of the worst starts to a bushfire season on record. Across the state, bushfires have impacted communities, properties and businesses. As is the true Queensland way, our first responders, our government agencies, our councils and our communities have rallied around those who have been impacted. Among those responding to the bushfires are our hardworking Transport and Main Roads staff, who I am proud to say have been out on the ground working hard to make sure that our communities are safe. They have been doing all they can.

RoadTek crews have been at the coalface, predeployed to risk areas and have done an amazing job in responding to impacts along the New England Highway on the Darling Downs; Lamington National Park, Beechmont and Binna Burra roads on the Gold Coast; and on the Sunshine Motorway near the Peregian area. I am pleased to advise that Binna Burra Road has since reopened to local traffic. However, a number of roads remain closed and crews are working around the clock to assess the impacts, carry out geotechnical investigations and get these roads opened as soon as possible. With the bushfires, a lot of the usual things that we see on a road have been destroyed and they are being progressively replaced as quickly as they can.

Our crews have also supplied generators to the Southern Downs Regional Council and water trucks to assist with fire control, going above and beyond for their fellow Queenslanders. I would like to express my huge thanks and appreciation to our incredible RoadTek crews, our fireys, our police and all those involved for their inspiring efforts to help communities impacted by the devastating bushfires.

What we have seen is that even just a small fire can have a significant impact on a person's visibility and ability to drive. Yesterday, a grassfire at Darra caused a significant smoke hazard on the Centenary Highway, impacting driver visibility. Additionally, while visiting the cape last week I saw how untouched areas along the roadsides can become quickly engulfed in just a matter of hours, impacting vehicle access.

With bushfire season only just beginning, it is very important that Queenslanders avoid driving near areas of controlled burns and bushfires, they drive to the conditions, they tune into local radio stations for updates, they make sure they have plenty of water and fuel on those longer journeys and always follow the instructions of our police, our road crews and our firefighters, who are all doing a magnificent job on behalf of Queenslanders.