




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events, Floods

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): You find out who your friends are when the chips are down. When the worst happens you quickly find out who you can rely on for a helping hand. The people of our great state's far north, north and west have once again seen who their friends are when disaster strikes. The north, west and far north of our state bore the brunt of the devastating flood event that unfolded as a monsoon trough unleashed its watery furies from the skies. It was our first responders and public safety officers, including our police, who stood tall in the darkest hours. Our police evacuated families and pets from their flooding homes as the floodwaters rose ever so rapidly. In many cases our police officers performed these selfless acts in the full knowledge that their own homes could be under threat.

Our police persevered through days and nights of seemingly endless challenges, but notwithstanding their courage and selflessness they are flesh and blood like the rest of us. They are not immune to the dangers that threaten those they seek to keep safe, and so it was that at times it was our police who were swept away in the seething torrents of water. Two officers in particular, as they worked through the night helping others to safety, were washed away and had to be rescued themselves. That is what makes them, what makes all police, so special. In full knowledge of their own human frailties and vulnerabilities, our police selflessly rise above whatever daunting challenges they face and commit to the cause—the cause of keeping their fellow Queenslanders safe.

Like our police, our Corrective Services officers and staff went above and beyond the call of duty. During the recent flooding event, our custodial and community corrections officers stayed on the job, many of them unable to return to their homes and check on loved ones because of the flooded roads. They maintained security, never resiling from their commitment to keep the community safe. Once the rain clouds blew away, our Corrective Services officers and staff stepped up again and helped clean up the houses of those affected by flooding.

The floods have had a devastating effect on so many people in our state and our thoughts and prayers remain with them, but if there is a shining light amid all that gloom it is this: when tough times hit our communities know Queensland's emergency service and public safety workers will be right there by their side. It is what Queenslanders do.