




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East and Western Queensland, Weather Event

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): The wet and wild weather has not left us yet. The next 24 hours will continue to pose a challenge. No-one should be complacent. Flash flooding will continue to be a risk, particularly in streams or creeks that respond quickly to a heavy, short duration of rainfall. Landslips are also possible, especially in areas of steep terrain. We have already seen examples of that in the Gold Coast hinterland. Yesterday Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and the State Emergency Service assisted with the rescue of 23 people at Wongawallan as a result of a landslide.

While flood levels are expected to remain below the peak seen following Tropical Cyclone Debbie, I urge people to be prepared and remain vigilant. Overnight we have seen widespread heavy rainfall and flash flooding across South-East Queensland and that is expected to continue today. Since Sunday morning there have been four swiftwater rescues in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas conducted by the Fire and Rescue Service's swiftwater rescue technicians. State Emergency Service crews continue to assist affected residents with leaking roofs, tarp requests and other flood related calls for service.

A severe weather warning is in place and people need to be aware of the risks. Stay well away from floodwater and avoid unnecessary travel on the roads. If you are faced with floodwater the safest option is to back it up and find another route. Remember: if it is flooded, forget it. The heavy rain is expected to move out to sea over the next few days. Until then I urge everyone to be aware of the potential dangers posed by the weather. It is important to monitor the Bureau of Meteorology's website for the latest warnings. I take this opportunity to thank our emergency services personnel—the officers, the staff and the volunteers—who are out there in bad weather and sometimes dangerous conditions reaching out to those in need.