




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 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) (10.01 am): The effects of the recent extreme weather will be felt for some time to come. While the flooding threat is not yet over, for many the clean-up is now beginning. Along with the federal minister for emergency management, I today announced that disaster assistance is now available to the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim council areas. This follows the sustained heavy rainfall and flooding across southern parts of the state. Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This funding will assist councils with the costs of road and infrastructure repairs and clean-up and recovery efforts in the affected communities.

Days of continuous heavy rain have resulted in widespread damage to roads, several landslides and extensive debris across road networks. Flooded roads and causeways have also led to isolation and other disruption to communities. We will continue to act swiftly to provide financial support to councils for counterdisaster operations and the restoration of essential public assets to help these communities recover as quickly as possible. Today's announcements will allow local councils to carry out clean-up operations and restore their damaged essential public assets knowing that the eligible costs will be covered under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

This has been a significant weather event. In the seven days until yesterday, over 600 millimetres of rain fell at Mount Tamborine, 560 millimetres at Upper Springbrook and 385 millimetres at North Stradbroke Island. Preliminary data also shows that a number of locations broke daily March rainfall records. In fact, on 22 March at Mulga Downs 100 millimetres fell, which is the highest in 116 years of records. Likewise, out near Warwick at Leslie Dam 95 millimetres fell—the highest on record in 106 years.

As they always do, our emergency services, our firefighters, our SES staff and volunteers and the thousands of others across government agencies and the community have been there standing shoulder to shoulder with their fellow Queenslanders ready to help. On behalf of all of us, I thank them.