




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East Queensland; Weather Event; SES Week

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.24 am): As the Premier said earlier, South-East Queensland has experienced some wet and wild weather this morning. We have seen warnings for heavy rainfall for areas in the south-east coast region and parts of Wide Bay, Burnett, Darling Downs and the Granite Belt. In addition, there have been forecasts for severe thunderstorms for the south-east. This includes the areas of Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley. Already we have seen some big rainfall figures: 65 millimetres at Upper Springbrook; 51 millimetres at Little Nerang Dam; 49 millimetres at Tallebudgera Creek Road; and 48 millimetres at Currumbin Creek.

I assure Queenslanders and the House that our frontline responders are prepared. There are three swiftwater rescue crews ready to respond in the Ipswich, Beenleigh and Gold Coast regions. There are further swiftwater rescue teams ready to go in Brisbane. There are swiftwater rescue teams on standby on the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba. All regions have additional capacity to stand up additional swiftwater rescue resources should conditions worsen.

In addition, our valued SES volunteers are on standby across all regions. As last night and this morning have proven yet again, Queensland is prone to severe wet weather events. On the upside, we have the very best frontline responders in the nation. Today reminds us that when bad weather strikes it is the SES and their partnerships that come to the rescue. In fact, SES volunteers provide critical support during all sorts of emergency situations—storms, cyclones, rescues and more.

In this SES Week we shine the spotlight on the spirit of our SES volunteers. It is a week to celebrate them but also to join with others in community education and engagement. We highlight the outstanding contribution of the SES. It is an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness of the dedication and commitment of SES members and the invaluable services they provide to their communities. SES volunteers perform with dedication and professionalism and spend many hours in service to Queenslanders. This is an opportunity to recognise their professionalism. In the last financial year, SES volunteers devoted hundreds of thousands of hours of their time to helping Queenslanders. To each and every one of these volunteers, on behalf of all Queenslanders, we thank you.