




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Event

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.56 am): As we heard from the Premier, what we are seeing right across Queensland is the influence of the La Nina weather event—lots of rain. It is wet and we are seeing flooding in many communities. Last night people in Inglewood were forced to leave their homes and move to an evacuation site as the floodwaters rose swiftly. As the commissioner said this morning, it was an extraordinary downpour that hit the catchment around Inglewood—90 millimetres of rain fell in just one hour.

I commend the local response. Within about 90 minutes local authorities had begun the evacuation of homes and began putting in place the facilities residents would need at the evacuation site. As the rain continues, I urge all Queenslanders to keep an eye on the forecast and any weather warnings for their local area. Queensland is so saturated now that it will not take a whole lot more rain to start localised flash flooding. There are rivers already subject to major flood warnings.

While Queenslanders have been through these scenarios many times before, the potential dangers do not go away. We keep on saying it—but it is so crucial to adhere to that slogan: if it's flooded, forget it! In the past 24 hours, the State Emergency Service has received over 320 requests for assistance. In the past 24 hours there have been over 30 swiftwater rescues. Nearly half of all of the SES jobs in the last 24 hours were in the Greater Brisbane area. We also had a lot of activity in south-west and other parts of South-East Queensland.

Unfortunately, we saw more incidents where vehicles became stuck on flooded roads, with some people requiring the help of our swiftwater rescuers. We have had swiftwater rescue crews pre-deployed to the areas of most concern, including Roma, Goondiwindi and Chinchilla, for a number of days now to assist local crews. Our SES flood boat teams have also been pre-deployed across the state to assist local crews.

We need people to stay alert and across the warnings, as flash flooding can occur almost anywhere in Queensland with very little notice. Major flooding is now occurring in the border rivers and the Condamine River area, with major flood warnings also in force for the Logan River, Bremer-Warrill and Dawson rivers. Widespread minor to moderate flooding is occurring across many inland rivers south of about Rockhampton. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to contract south-east today, with much lower rainfall totals across flood-affected areas until the end of the week, but localised flash flooding as a result of thunderstorms remains a risk today. I ask all Queenslanders to pay attention to the forecast, act when authorities ask you to act, and if it's flooded, forget it.