



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Weather Events

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): Overnight the people of South-East Queensland experienced intense rainfall—it woke me up. There was intense rainfall throughout the Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast areas and in Brisbane. In some places 300 to 400 millimetres fell in a very short time with very little warning. There was 424 millimetres at Mount Wolvi, 356 millimetres at Pomona, 354 millimetres at Cedar Pocket Dam, 350 millimetres at Kin Kin and 343 millimetres at Cooran. The SES has already received more than 100 requests for assistance to respond to flooded properties and vehicles, mostly in the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Noosa local council areas. Swiftwater rescue crews were called to 27 incidents overnight, including vehicles stuck in floodwaters in the Cooroy, Kin Kin, Gympie and surrounding areas. Some rescues are ongoing due to challenging and dangerous conditions. Tragically, I have just been advised that a 60-year old person has been found deceased after a vehicle was submerged in water just after 8 am this morning. This is indeed a tragedy.

A freight train has also overturned in Traveston south of Gympie. Crews are currently on scene. I am advised that the driver has been rescued with minor injuries. There is a diesel leak that is being managed and the transport minister will have a further update on that shortly. There are multiple road closures, so please heed the warnings, which are also affecting some schools. I am advised at the moment there are seven schools that are closed: Dagon State School, Gympie East State School, Kandanga State School, Kenilworth State Community College, Kia-Ora State School, Kin Kin State School and Pomona State School. Education Queensland and Main Roads websites will have the latest information as it becomes available. Please look out for updates.

Right now 15 Seqwater managed dams are at capacity with several spilling, including the Baroon Pocket Dam on the Sunshine Coast, Hinze Dam on the Gold Coast and the Leslie Harrison Dam at Redlands. A severe weather warning remains in place for areas between Maryborough to the Gold Coast and stretching west to Toowoomba. We have just had a briefing with the Bureau of Meteorology and the State Disaster Coordinator as well as police and emergency services. Heavy rainfall is predicted to continue today and into Thursday.

This has the potential to be a significant rainfall event for South-East Queensland. Locally, intense rainfall is possible and since many catchments are now saturated, there is an increased risk of dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding over the coming days. Over the coming days some areas will also see a month's worth of rainfall. We will continue to listen to the latest advice from the weather bureau, QPS, QFES and other authorities. There may be more road and school closures.

My ministers and I will be getting briefings throughout the day. Please, I cannot stress this enough: do not take any risks. Avoid unnecessary travel and stay well away from floodwater. If you require SES assistance call 132500 or triple 0 if it is a life-threatening emergency. Also remember: if it is flooded, forget it. We will be monitoring this situation very closely, especially in relation to schools.

People who live near creeks should exercise due caution. We are hearing that the more intense rainfall is likely to come tomorrow. As the bureau has said, this can be a life-threatening weather event. I urge everyone in South-East Queensland to exercise caution over the next 24 to 48 hours.