



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2022

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Queensland Floods, Miller Electorate**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): Since the last sitting we have seen the most rainfall over a three-day or seven-day period since records began in 1840. That has meant a lot of suffering for Queenslanders from Wide Bay to the border and out to Toowoomba. In Miller, 136 streets had flood impacts. I have been in the field for about two weeks—from the Saturday when the first QDMC, Queensland Disaster Management Committee, happened. Before it happened I was out there looking at things and ensuring my constituents were safe.

On the Saturday it was clear that the water was rising. By the late afternoon the Brisbane River was breaking its banks and heading towards my constituents' houses on Nadine Street, Graceville, and Pamphlett Bridge was about to go under. A boat was already stuck under the bridge. We were helping people get out very quickly—people like Patricia, who had no plans and no intention of leaving her home and was at grave risk. I mentioned earlier that we needed more evacuation centres. We needed an evacuation centre on the south side and in the south-west for people to be able to get to quickly. That is something that needs to be rectified in the future.

On the Sunday we had a torrential downpour all day. Another issue I need to outline, aside from evacuation centres, is the need for more sandbagging locations that are more spread out. We needed sandbagging very quickly for The Village Yeronga aged-care and retirement village, whose ground floor was getting flooded. We could not access sandbags because the nearest depots were at Morningside and Darra, which we could not get to. We could not get to either one of them. There were too many flooded streets, so we were simply unable to get to them. The south side was let down by a lack of sandbagging facilities and evacuation centres and that needs to be rectified going forward.

On the Monday of the crisis there was a period where everyone was a bit stunned and stopped because the floodwaters were there but no-one could get to their houses. There was this hiatus where everybody took stock of the roads that had become canals, lakes and waterways. Kayaks and boats were being used to get to people who were 'islanded' at places like Chelmer, Fairfield, Graceville, Sherwood and Rocklea. Some people were 'islanded' for four or five days in Rocklea. It was a pretty difficult situation.

By Tuesday we saw the floodwaters go down sufficiently for people to get to their houses. It was inspiring to see people from all over South-East Queensland helping their friends, their relatives and their workmates deal with the horror—and it is a horror—of seeing floodwater through people's houses two- or three-feet high. The water level was not as high as 2011 but it makes no difference when your house has been devastated, when your photos are out on the footpath, when it is your high school certificate in a frame that has been destroyed. When all of those things are out there on the footpath, it is devastating for everybody involved.

A lot of people did not think about financial assistance. They were just getting the job done. The Yeronga Community Centre has done an enormously fantastic job. I want to thank Melinda and Billy and all the volunteers out there who are doing so much fantastic work. I want to thank Anthony and

Dick from Wellers Hill Bowls Club; Dean from Tarragindi Tigers; the families and members who helped to rectify a lot of our sporting clubs that were impacted—the South District Cricket Club, the Yeronga Devils AFL, the Sherwood Magpies, Olympic FC, the Yeronga Eagles and the Brisbane Knights; and all the families and staff from Sherwood State School, Milpera State High School, which was severely impacted, and Graceville State School, who did a lot of outreach as well.

I want to thank Timothy and his team at Yeronga State High School who organised their own mud army and took in the students from Milpera State High School and still do; Paula and John and their volunteers from Benarrawa; Pauline and Cassie and their team at The Clubhouse Moorooka, who are hosting community recovery; parents from St Sebastian's who drove around on the Tuesday and onwards helping people with food and drink and supporting them; Yeronga State School, who helped provide meals for students and families; and the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre, who are also hosting community recovery staff from not just my electorate but Mount Ommaney who are impacted.

I want to thank the Premier, Minister Grace, Minister Hinchliffe and Minister Enoch for all of their support of our communities in various ways—for visits and resources. We are working with the Brisbane City Council to deal with the Drift restaurant situation. It is a very big and dangerous job. We are working with the Lord Mayor. I have had my criticisms of the council, but they are working well with us. They asked for our support. I immediately agreed to it. We are working through the difficulties there to clear what is a very important piece of infrastructure.