




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.30 pm): What began as two days of heavy rain became three and then four and then went on to escalate into what was the worst flood in at least 11 years. For some people it was the worst flood in a much longer time. Every catchment from Maryborough down was hit. This included not just my constituency which was heavily impacted but constituencies from Maryborough to the border and out past Toowoomba. I express my condolences to the families of those 13 people who lost their lives, including our SES volunteer. I offer my condolences to all those people who have lost a loved one at such a terrible time.

Our houses are very much our castles. Our house is often our retreat. It is our buffer. It is where we regenerate. It is where our family is. When our houses are breached there is something about us that is breached quite profoundly. There is a vulnerability that comes with that. We are stripped back of what we have and who we are. That is what a lot of people are dealing with in our state at the moment. It is very confronting and very difficult.

As a member of parliament, I am committed to doing everything I can to help every person in my electorate who has been impacted by these terrible floods. There are some things I will always remember. I will remember people rushing to save things as the waters rose. I will remember people being fairly oblivious as the Brisbane River broke its banks and headed towards houses. Some people could not accept what was happening and needed help to evacuate. These are very difficult things. It is difficult to know that Pamphlet Bridge is going to go under and that people's houses are going to go under. It was very clear by Saturday night that that was what was going to happen.

I am heartened by the level of community support and people looking out for each other. We bind together when we are under threat. I thank everybody in my community who did that and everybody who continues to do that for people. It is incredibly inspiring. As I have gone around my flooded streets, the level of engagement of people who are grateful for help, any help despite the fact that their lives have been turned upside down is inspiring.

I thank all of our frontline responders—those in QFES, the SES, police, councils, RoadTek, transport and rail; all those who did so much on the ground to help people. I say a big thank you to all of our leaders at Kedron. We have an incredible model in terms of disaster management. We put all our key people together. Everyone needed is right there to solve problems and they have to be solved quickly. We have the best in this state. I say thank you to all of our senior leaders in departments who do a magnificent job.

I thank the ADF that solved a problem of 4,000 pallets of food going off in Rocklea on a scale that is hard to fathom. I give a special shout-out to Brigadier Armstrong whom I worked with on that. Only the Army could deal with something of that scale. They did a magnificent job.

A lot of my sports clubs had severe impacts. South Brisbane District Cricket Club, Brisbane Knights Football Club, Yeronga Eagles Football Club and Olympic FC all had their clubhouses and buildings breached. Other clubs had impacts but not quite so severe. Thanks to everybody who supported those clubs in their clean-up.

At Milpera State High School 10 of their 11 buildings went under. Thanks to Yeronga State High School for looking after the students there.

When the chips are down, it is our role as MPs to be on the ground solving problems and dealing with the fact that people respond in all kinds of ways to a disaster. Sometimes they respond well and sometimes they respond not so well. Sometimes people have no idea what to do. We need to be on the ground to help them know what to do to be safe and to look out for other people.

I say a huge thank you to the Yeronga Community Centre. It came out of the 2011 floods on the south side. I thank Melinda, Billy and the team. I thank the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre and the Clubhouse Moorooka. I thank all our community recovery staff in Minister Enoch's area. I thank Minister Enoch for her help in getting people on the ground to help constituents. I thank Minister Grace, who went out to see Milpera State High School. I thank the Premier. I thank Minister Hinchliffe, who was out seeing the South Brisbane District Cricket Club. I thank the member for Mount Ommaney, who was out on the ground helping people. It was pleasure to work with her. Let us hope we do not see another flood for a very long time.