




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miller Electorate, Queensland Floods

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.22 pm): The recent floods in Queensland, from Wide Bay down to the border, had a particularly strong impact on my electorate and on many other electorates. In 132 streets in the electorate of Miller people had floodwaters through their houses. It is important to outline what flood damage is like: whole streets have piles of people's personal possessions covered in a brown, moist film of river mud and silt; wallpaper, furniture and floorboards in houses are wet and brown; your feet slip on the fresh mud after the floodwaters have gone down.

It is a terrible sight to see in piles on the street people's photographs and framed mementos—their high school certificates and the things they love that have been on the walls of their homes for years—now ruined; to see the street white, covered in plasterboard remnants; and to see gardens that people have loved for so long covered in brown film. When you meet these people, you can see in their eyes what is ahead of them for the next 12 to 18 months of their lives. Days later, the river silt and mud all over people's loved things bakes in the summer sun, resulting in stench. It is terrible for everybody involved.

These people deserve justice. They deserve respect. They deserve support from government in equal measure, and they are not getting it from the federal government. The federal government has said that flood victims in my electorate and in the electorates of every person in this House, including members of the opposition, deserve only a third of the support that flood victims in New South Wales get. It is offensive to treat flood victims differently in terms of financial advantage. I find it deeply offensive. I will stand up for my constituents until they get justice from the Morrison government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I find it offensive that those opposite who have flood victims in their electorates are interjecting instead of supporting me. The \$3,000 worth of support that New South Wales flood victims receive is what Queensland flood victims should get. Those members opposite, including the Leader of the Opposition, should be supporting us to go into bat to get justice for them. Instead, it is just politics. It is offensive. There the Leader of the Opposition sits mute. He does not stand up for flood victims in this state because of his spineless attitude. He should be standing up to Canberra and getting justice for flood victims.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice first. Minister, please withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. It is offensive that we do not have a bipartisan position in Canberra to get justice for flood victims. People on the other side of the House should be standing up for their constituents, to get justice from Canberra, and they are not. It should be bipartisan. Tonight's federal budget provides an opportunity for this travesty to be rectified. Some 18 days this has gone on. How would you feel if you were a flood victim in my area looking at 12 to 18 months of recovery?

Mrs Gerber: You have been leaving whole communities out of the review.

Mr BAILEY: We have the member for Currumbin interjecting. She has flood victims in her electorate that she is not standing up for.

Mrs Gerber: A hundred per cent. Will you include them in the review?

Mr BAILEY: How dare she interject? We have a disaster package to help people raise their houses, a buyback scheme and money to help people build back better, yet Canberra will not even reply to us. These flood victims deserve justice and support. They are getting it from this government. They are getting it from our Premier in Queensland but they are not getting it from those opposite, who do not stand up for the flood victims in this state. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, your comments will come through the chair or not at all.

Mr BAILEY: The Leader of the Opposition will not stand up for flood victims in Queensland because he is running a protection racket for Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce. It is a gutless performance.

Mr KRAUSE: I draw your attention to more unparliamentary language used by the minister and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. I am passionate about this—absolutely. Flood victims deserve justice from every member of the parliament, not members of parliament who are not standing up for flood victims.

(Time expired)