



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

## MOTION

### Queensland Floods

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.18 pm): I start once again by acknowledging the loss of life in this most recent natural disaster emergency. A number of people have lost their lives. I express my condolences to their family and friends. In particular, I again highlight that a member of the emergency services, Merryl Dray, an SES volunteer from Lowood, died serving her community. Again, I express my condolences to all who knew Merryl and to all members of the SES who obviously are grieving her loss.

I have lived most of my life in the Caboolture area. I remember big rain and flood events from the early 1990s and those of the 2000s. I know from my memory that this is the biggest weather event I have ever experienced in the Caboolture region. Certainly from conversations with the many people I know throughout the Caboolture region, many of whom have lived their entire lives in the Caboolture region, they agree that this was a significant weather event.

The bureau agrees as well. The Bureau of Meteorology has confirmed that the weather event that South-East Queensland experienced was the biggest weather event for 130 years—since 1893. More rain fell in South-East Queensland and Brisbane than at any other time for 130 years. It was quite extraordinary. It was bigger than the event in 1974 and bigger than the event in 2011. Numerous sites throughout South-East Queensland, including Caboolture, experienced over a metre of rain in a matter of a few days. That volume of rain is unfathomable. Many sites throughout South-East Queensland received over a metre of rain within a few days, which is quite extraordinary.

What was also extraordinary was how communities and emergency services right across South-East Queensland responded, providing support to people who needed it, helping people in the emergency and helping people clean up after the emergency. I wanted to particularly highlight the impact and response in the Caboolture region. There have been people impacted in the Caboolture region. Many streets have been impacted and many residents have been impacted. I have, of course, been out and about meeting with local people. It was good to talk with the people from Mark Street in Morayfield—not named after me—who unfortunately experience flooding in most major events. They again experienced significant flooding with numerous residents impacted.

The Caboolture River Caravan Park was impacted, but not as much as last time. This is a great example of how we learn from natural disaster events and build back better. The Caboolture River Caravan Park was significantly impacted in the 2011 flood. As part of the rebuilding, everything was built back at a level higher than the 2011 flood. Whilst there was still some impact it was not as significant as 2011. Nonetheless, for those people who have had floodwaters through their properties it is a terrible experience. I know the Caboolture community will continue to support them as they rebuild.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the local emergency services that significantly contributed to the response in the Caboolture region—the police, the Fire and Rescue Services, the Rural Fire Service, the SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue—as well as our support agencies like the

Red Cross and Community Recovery. They do outstanding work. I had the opportunity to go out with the Moreton Army—not the Mud Army—a week and a bit ago through parts of the Caboolture area. Whilst we were doing clean-ups in people’s yards and houses it was amazing to see the many Community Recovery teams—this was on a Sunday—going house to house. There was the physical clean-up but also the wellbeing support that is so important.

There was an evacuation centre as well as a recovery hub set up very quickly in Caboolture. I know Minister Enoch is in the chamber and I commend her department for establishing that facility so quickly and for ensuring the financial, counselling and wellbeing support was there for local people. Finally, I want to acknowledge the Moreton Bay Regional Council. It is a sophisticated and experienced council. Their response was appropriate and well thought through. I particularly commend the mayor for his leadership. All in all, we will continue to rebuild and continue to look after people in Caboolture impacted by this event.