



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Federal Labor Government; State Disaster Coordination Centre; Emergency Services**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): With the election result on the weekend, Australians now have a Prime Minister who will not say he does not hold a hose, a Prime Minister who will stand up and take responsibility on working with communities on resilience and disaster recovery, and a Prime Minister who will actually say that it is his job to help.

The Palaszczuk government has always been a government for all Queenslanders—a government for Queenslanders in the cities and a government for Queenslanders in the regions. We have seen that reality on display during what has been a very challenging period in this state's history—during COVID, then a devastating wet season, with floods and severe storms. For our frontline personnel, dealing with COVID and the wild weather truly has been a marathon. An integral part of the response to the pandemic—and any emergency for that matter—is Queensland's State Disaster Coordination Centre, or the SDCC as many people call it. The SDCC moved to stand up at 6 am on 2 February 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic—well over two years ago. The SDCC was continuously activated for a record 817 days—that is two years and three months continuously.

The people at the State Disaster Coordination Centre undertook a formidable workload. For example, they set up 93 hotels as part of the Queensland government hotel quarantine program and accommodated more than 160,000 people. The State Disaster Coordination Centre not only dealt with COVID over this extraordinary period in Queensland's history; in addition, the SDCC also responded to 12 major events, including cyclones and floods. Just this month, we had more flooding, with the people of Laidley and the Lockyer Valley particularly affected.

It was also National Volunteer Week last week. I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all of our emergency services volunteers. During the severe weather season, the State Emergency Service volunteers received almost 20,000 requests for assistance and performed over 110,000 operational hours. During this month's flooding event, the State Emergency Service volunteers received almost 2,000 requests for assistance, the Rural Fire Service volunteers conducted washout operations in various locations as the flood waters receded, Fire and Rescue Service crews conducted nearly 20,000 damage assessments, and swiftwater rescue crews responded to more than 1,200 incidents.

After 800-plus days of continuous operation, the State Disaster Coordination Centre finally stood down on 29 April this year. I want to thank all of those involved at the State Disaster Coordination Centre, including the State Disaster Coordinator and Deputy Commissioner, Steve Gollschewski, who led this dedicated team throughout these troubled times. The workers, the volunteers and the emergency services personnel who support this State Disaster Coordination Centre are true Queenslanders standing up for Queenslanders and helping them in their time of need.