




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Miller Electorate, Flood Mitigation

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.09 pm): Many residents in my electorate suffered terribly a year ago with the largest rainfall recorded over three days since records began falling across Brisbane and the region, causing riverine as well as overland catchment flooding. These floodwaters entered and devastated the homes of so many residents who had worked so hard for them. Many of them are still recovering and working to restore their properties fully with the help of the jointly funded \$750 million Resilient Homes Fund or their insurers.

Local Yeronga residents in the vicinity of Orient Road, Ormonde Road, Hyde Road and the Brisbane Corso who met with me raised an added concern about a longstanding overland blockage that may have additionally contributed to the flooding. To make matters worse, when looking to the future a potentially much larger blockage of floodwater and overland flow is at risk of eventuating and threatening local homes with flooding in the vicinity of the Orient Road Park area. Blocking the natural overland flow through Orient Road Park to the Brisbane River is an industrial holding yard at 133 Hyde Road, Yeronga, with a huge amount of unapproved fill built up by up to four metres above normal ground level over approximately 60 metres as well as an unapproved narrow drainage pipe underneath the unapproved fill for the local creek to flow through. This can be seen starkly on any Google map by anyone, as it is surrounded by green open space on three sides.

These matters date back to 2006, when the then local councillor first raised the matter with the city council. The pipe is only 1,200 millimetres wide, whereas culverts on public land under the Brisbane Corso downstream only 280 metres away are much wider at 1,800 millimetres. The unapproved fill has been there for 20 years now and is at risk of collapsing the pipe that it sits above, which would prevent the current limited overland flow from draining away to the river in the event of the next extreme weather event. This is of great concern to me as their state MP and local residents. While this matter was investigated previously and found to be unapproved, no action has been taken to rectify the situation by the council, which may well become catastrophic should the pipe collapse and close and another extreme weather event happen before the matter can be rectified.

I wrote to the current Lord Mayor of Brisbane requesting he and council investigate this pressing matter, only to receive a refusal. After detailed and time-consuming research over a number of years, Yeronga residents have raised these matters with the current council. They have not received any appropriate response in relation to rectifying the unapproved pipe or fill to reduce the risk of future flooding for local residents. This refusal to act by the city council is unacceptable and means an ongoing risk for my local Yeronga residents, who have suffered enough. I call on the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Adrian Schrinner, and the council to meet with my local constituents face to face with appropriate council officers and to commit to an independent and thorough investigation into this issue.