



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Bushfires**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has issued emergency warnings for the areas of Tara, Halliford, Wieambilla, Kogan, Goranba and Weranga. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is warning people in these areas that it is not safe to return to the identified areas in the warning. The fire in between Tara, Wieambilla, Kogan and Goranba is still burning. It is travelling towards Weranga North Road. The advice is: if you have left the area, stay where you are; it is not safe to return. It is important to stay informed. I remind everyone, whether they are in the impacted area or for the entire bushfire season, to keep checking the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' Bushfires and Warnings webpage, follow the authorities on social media and listen to their local media outlets. I remind everyone to have a bushfire survival plan and to follow it.

Evacuation centres are now established at the Dalby Events Centre and the Chinchilla Showgrounds. People should avoid driving on the Tara Kogan Road. They should keep updated by checking the QLDTraffic website. They should also move flammable items away from their homes if they can and they should watch out for firefighters working in the area. I also remind people not to fly drones around fire areas because this will impact air operations. Fire conditions have eased in some areas, but they can quickly get worse. Conditions are expected to remain hot, dry and windy, with areas of high and extreme fire danger forecast again today and tomorrow.

Bushfire warnings remain in place for several fires, and the community have been doing a great job in following the advice. Fire crews are working around the clock to keep their communities safe. I thank employers who have released Rural Fire Service volunteers and also volunteer firefighters to allow them to undertake life-saving activities. I also thank everyone who is contributing to the emergency response. In fact, recently I have seen some published comments saying that the firefighters and water bombers in the Tara area have been amazing. With respect, I think that is an understatement. It has been heroic work, extraordinary work, and we owe every single one of those people contributing to this emergency response a debt of gratitude.

Authorities have assessed more than 70 properties in the Tara area and they have now confirmed that 16 dwellings and more than 11 sheds and other structures have been lost. There is also a weather warning for South-East Queensland for today. In the south-east there is expected to be severe thunderstorms with locally damaging winds and large hail possible. I remind everyone in South-East Queensland to also follow the warnings of the authorities. I urge everyone to remain alert and stay up to date with all emergency warnings. Once again, I thank every single one of our Fire and Emergency Services personnel for the outstanding work they are doing.