




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Weather Events

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.09 pm): The true test of strength is the ability to respond when already stretched. This was tested in my local community in the early hours of Tuesday, 30 January with extreme isolated rain inundation and subsequent flooding. Our frontline workers are always up to the challenge and they met it when the calls for assistance came.

Rainfall associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily saw water inundate homes in the middle of the night and in the early hours of the morning. During this event QFES carried out 13 swiftwater rescues. I was on the ground and saw firsthand the considerable and unprecedented impact on homes and livelihoods that morning. Our SES volunteers moved in quickly to assist. It was followed by our amazing local rural fire brigades who gave up their time to wash out homes and help community members through the hard slog of the clean-up.

In Samford, the rain gauges clocked over 300 millimetres of rain in three hours. I am advised that that is a one-in-2,000-year event. The devastation can be seen in the damage assessment figures: 417 assessments were conducted, with 57 structures having minor damage, 91 with moderate damage and 26 with severe damage. Our disaster response here in Queensland is second to none. That is due to our well-resourced, highly trained first responders and dedicated Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Only two years ago, many of the same houses in my community were hit with the 2022 Brisbane floods. What we saw in this event was even more water going through more homes and a quicker inundation. Following the 2022 floods, the Queensland and Australian governments developed the Resilient Homes Fund to make homes better equipped to deal with flooding events. While this program is now closed, some houses in Bray Park embarked upon this journey. I appreciate the invitation from Mayor Peter Flannery to QRA CEO Jake Ellwood and me to visit impacted locations. This year the DRF is funding the Leone Street drainage project, which will commence this year. I highlighted to the mayor the importance of also investigating the blocks to the east of this zone towards the train line to make drainage improvements there in a replica project. Additionally, I have expressed my strong support for a retention study for Four Mile Creek including natural detention basins.

While the state government financial assistance measures and grants were activated to support my community rapidly after the event, I was particularly happy to see that the federal government has activated disaster recovery payments to Bray Park locals commencing tomorrow, Wednesday, 14 February from 2 pm. I strongly encourage impacted locals to apply for this financial assistance. We are currently rebuilding and recovering from natural disasters. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with communities, including my own, in responding to their needs through this recovery process.