




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.50 am): While we are still recovering from the North Queensland flood event and ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, we have again been confronted with record rains across vast areas of inland Queensland. Our Queensland disaster management arrangements facilitate planning for, responding to and recovering from these most extreme weather events, and the Crisafulli government is committed to doing just that. Transport and Main Roads was well prepared for this latest flooding event, which in some parts of the state is still unfolding. We are also preparing for more rain in the coming days from Western Australia's ex-Tropical Cyclone Dianne which is expected to add more water to the already sodden catchments out west.

Our road teams across both local and state government have been working tirelessly right across the weekend and yesterday to get Queensland moving again. They have been able to reduce the number of closed roads from this event from 144 to 120 from midday Sunday to just before eight o'clock this morning. These road crews are currently inspecting and clearing flood damaged roads and bridges from the New South Wales border right up to the gulf. I want to acknowledge the very close partnership between the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Energy Queensland led by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership.

When communities are recovering from disasters they need their roads and electricity restored quickly. This means our communities can get on with their mobile phone coverage communications, we can restore water and sewerage and we can get them working again. It means that hospitals, aged-care facilities and other essential infrastructure no longer need to rely on backup generators and it means that schools can return to normal, shops and motels can open and the important economic drivers of retail, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism can function again.

My department and Energy Queensland have again worked hand in glove to prioritise access to the hardest hit areas in some of our most remote parts of the state. It is humbling to watch our teams, often in the most gruelling of working environments, finding ways around otherwise impassable roads to expedite the return of services for those communities. Nowhere is this more apparent than the 210-kilometre stretch of road from the iconic town of Longreach to the flood impacted town of Jundah. I want to acknowledge the work of the Longreach Regional Council and the TMR RoadTek crews who are working to restore this critical link which is known as the Thomson Developmental Road.

My department is also providing direct assistance in rapidly opening freight routes to keep industry moving, to get life-saving fodder to starving livestock and to deliver much needed fuel for emergency operations right across much of inland Queensland. We have been hearing repeatedly of the urgent need to get avgas and Jet A-1 aircraft fuel to remote areas to keep the emergency aircraft operational and we have been prioritising freight into these areas. I thank Queenslanders for their patience as we prioritise the movement of emergency and resupply vehicles. I want to acknowledge the

hard work of the Queensland Rail team who are again confronted with damage to our passenger and freight networks right across Northern, Central and Western Queensland. This work is ongoing and I know our crews will get the train network running again as quickly as possible.

I particularly want to thank the mayors and the councillors in the impacted areas, along with the member for Warrego and the member for Gregory. Queenslanders should feel heartened knowing that, when facing these severe weather events, we are one team. We work together—council, state and indeed the federal government—and we get the job done for the communities we represent.

Finally, I want to thank the community members who heeded the warnings not to drive through flooded roads. I am extremely relieved to report that, despite this incredibly widespread flooding event, no lives have been lost. However, the job is not done. The Crisafulli government will continue to stand with our local communities as we rebuild and we restore for the prosperous times ahead.