




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion. More than that, I rise to speak in support of Queenslanders. Queenslanders are a tough lot, but the level of devastation we have seen in recent days is confronting. In particular, my heart goes out to those on the land.

We have heard from the Minister for Primary Industries about the huge loss of stock and the impact that this will have on families and on their communities. My only hope is that those families and communities gain solace in knowing that they are not alone. We all stand with them. I hope that they gain solace knowing that there are so many people working to make sure that they are safe, to restore electricity, reopen roads, assist with resupply or just be a listening ear for support.

In my portfolio, the challenges are dynamic and immense. As of earlier today, we had 127 roads closed. We have received aerial images of isolated impacted roads and routes around Cunnamulla, Eulo, Charleville, Quilpie, Eromanga and Jundah, and they all show extensive damage in a number of areas. It is important to note, as the member for Gregory spoke about, that this disaster is not over. As floodwater moves through the river systems and with the heavy rain that we have experienced last night and today, this will be an evolving and moving challenge. My department's focus is on facilitating the flow of stock and equipment to support communities. That overnight rainfall and rising floodwaters means that roads that we have previously been able to open for emergency relief, such as the road to Jundah from Longreach, have now had to close again.

I take this opportunity to again thank the federal government and the many local governments for the collaborative way we are all working together in our response. Federally funded roads, local roads, state controlled road—it does not matter in times like this. Every road that we reopen means more communities get access to the support they need. Reopening roads will continue to be what my department continues to focus on. The member for Gregory has made it very clear to me that clearing roads and ensuring that we open roads will be a critical enabler for the recovery. We will do whatever we need to do to ensure that Western and Central Queensland gets moving again.

The government has also arranged extra commercial flights to Thargomindah at reduced community fare price points to cater for the demand that is expected with kids coming back from boarding school and families reuniting for Easter. I want to thank Rex for their assistance in this regard.

Whether you are a North Queenslander, a Central Queenslander, a South-East Queenslander or a Western Queenslander, we are all Queenslanders and so many of us have been impacted by severe weather over the past few months. Throughout whatever Mother Nature has thrown at us, we have all stood together and we will continue to stand with communities impacted by the current weather event as we move into the recovery phase in the coming days, weeks and months.

