

Question on Notice

No. 204

Asked on 16 March 2023

MRS L GERBER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister hold a community forum to consult directly with flood victims in Elanora and Tallebudgera about the Independent Hydraulic Report, in particular the homes who are not covered in the report and have not yet been contacted by the State Government?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Currumbin for the question.

It is acknowledged that community members have raised concerns that some of the temporary construction works, for the M1 Pacific Motorway Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) upgrade project, may have contributed to increased flood levels during the February 2022 extreme flooding event. In response to these community concerns, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) engaged an independent hydraulics specialist to undertake an analysis of the temporary works in Tallebudgera Creek Road associated with the M1 works.

The analysis determined that, while the risk assessment for these temporary construction works were in accordance with best practice in the construction industry, flooding impacts may have been slightly increased within the Tallebudgera Creek catchment due to the temporary works that were in place in February 2022. As a result, the analysis suggested a small number of properties in the catchment may have been affected. Officers from TMR are currently engaging with those potentially directly affected to undertake further investigations.

The flooding in February 2022 was a record-breaking rain event unlike any the Tallebudgera Creek catchment had ever experienced. Over one metre of rain fell at the Bureau of Meteorology's Springbrook gauge, with the majority of the downstream catchment receiving between 50 and 70 centimetres of rainfall. It resulted in South East Queensland's wettest six-day period in recorded history.

The Tallebudgera Creek area has long been recognised as a floodplain and the Tallebudgera Creek catchment is a large and highly complex riverine (regional) catchment. Several factors impact the flood levels in this area, including rainfall intensity and duration, tidal influence, downstream creek conditions, ground conditions and developments within the creek catchment. Riverine flooding can be worsened during high tides and storm surges, reducing natural waterways' flood conveyance capacity. Gold Coast City Council has maps on its website that provide information on flood-affected areas and the likelihood of flood. To view these flood maps, please visit www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au and search 'flood maps'.

The twenty-five properties potentially impacted have already been contacted and the Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with them. While a community meeting is not planned with those property owners who have not been identified in the report, any resident impacted by the February 2022 flooding event is encouraged to consider applying to the Resilient Homes Fund (RHF) for assistance. The Queensland and Australian governments have developed the \$741 million RHF to help owners of Queensland homes impacted across 39 local government areas, by the 2021–22 floods. It is the first household resilience program ever to be offered in Australia. The program aims to help as many Queenslanders as possible, with available funding. Under the RHF, funding is available to assist eligible flood-impacted homeowners in repairing (enhancing resilience), retrofitting or raising flood-affected homes. Buy-backs will also be considered on a case-by-case basis and are voluntary.

More information can be found on the Queensland Government's website at www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/financial-help-concessions/resilient-homes-fund.