



Guy Barnett MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR LYONS

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA – HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ADJOURNMENT SPEECH -- DERWENT VALLEY FLOODS

TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

Mr BARNETT (Lyons – Minister for Resources) - Tonight I would like to reflect on the recent floods and the response to those floods, particularly in the Derwent Valley.

In the 24 hours leading up to 9 a.m. on Friday 11 May 2018 more than 120 millimetres of rain fell in Hobart and surrounding suburbs, whilst 236 millimetres fell on Mt Wellington. That makes 11 May 2018 the wettest Hobart day since 1960 and the second highest recorded May rainfall in a single day for Tasmania.

The extreme weather caused considerable damage across southern Tasmania, including through to the east coast and specifically in the electorate I represent in the Derwent Valley. It was one of the most heavily impacted local government areas. Some of those impacts related to roads washed out, bridges damaged, and parks and recreation grounds inundated. At Tynwald Park in New Norfolk, a young boy on his bike was airlifted to safety during the floods.

In that regard I want to pay a wonderful tribute to all those emergency services personnel, those first responders, and acknowledge the hard work and leadership of our Premier, Will Hodgman, and Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Michael Ferguson, who were out there supporting the Tasmanian emergency services and volunteers. I acknowledge all of them for what they have done. It was an incredible job in the face of extreme and challenging circumstances.

Buildings, fencing and equipment were heavily damaged or destroyed. Farmers' crops were heavily damaged or ruined. Creeks were choked with debris. Drainage systems were overwhelmed, causing severe pipe damage and the like.

I visited many of these areas in the Derwent Valley on 18 May with the Deputy Mayor, Ben Shaw. I thank Ben for the tour, meeting with residents and business people affected in Molesworth and parts of the Derwent Valley. We visited Tickleberry Farm and had a look at the damage there. Bill Smith was there and was clearly very concerned for his future. The raspberry farm was damaged almost beyond repair. There was huge damage all around. We had the opportunity to

move up into and around Molesworth and other parts of the community, visiting homes and properties that were clearly damaged.

I refer to a quote of Derwent Valley Council General Manager Greg Winton. He said, 'Some of the consequences of the flooding won't be seen for six to 12 months. That could be anything from further road failures to the sub-structures of the roads, weed management issues and further bank erosion issues'.

I refer to the Premier's announcement of a few days ago in terms of the additional disaster assistance grants that have been made available to non-profit organisations and individuals and businesses affected by the floods in early May. It is an important announcement and I put on the record my thanks to the Premier and the Government for their leadership. As a local member of Parliament, I will be in New Norfolk again on Friday following up with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and other businesses and individuals and families affected.

Assistance is being provided through this announcement through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The Government is continuing to work with the Derwent Valley community, which is still recovering from the flood event. To assist with the recovery, the state and federal governments have made further funding available to help those who need it most after what has been a challenging time. The Government is adding \$20 000 to the RACT Community Fund which is playing a key role in assisting non-profit organisations like our local clubs and associations recover. Grants up to \$5 000 will be made available to assist individuals in urgent and genuine need of assistance. For information for Housing Tasmania on 1 300 665 663.

In addition to the NDRRA funding, the Tasmanian Government is offering grants of up to \$10 000 for small businesses to meet their short to medium-term recovery needs, including the cost of repair and clean-up. Call Business Tasmania on 1 800 440026. Non-profit organisations may be eligible for grants of up to \$2000 to meet their short to medium-term recovery needs, including the cost of repair and clean-up. Phone RACT on 6236 4325.