



Michael Berkman MP
Greens State Member for Maiwar ▲

10am Monday 28 February 2022

West side flooding update: information and support

Dear Friend,

This morning the Brisbane River peaked at 3.85m, coinciding with the high tide, and the flood level is now falling. Although this is still lower than the 2011 peak of 4.46m, it's still a very significant flooding event, parts of the west side have been seriously impacted, and waters may rise and recede with tides over the next day or two - tomorrow morning's high tide is expected to bring the river level back up to about 3.7m. **I'm reaching out with some information about how to get help and what's next.**

The most important message right now is that we are not out of the woods yet. Don't be fooled - even though the rain has stopped, floodwaters may continue to rise, and it's still dangerous. If you are safe at home, **please stay home** today.

Schools are closed today, and [you can get updates on ongoing closures via this link](#).

My office is currently closed but my team and I are available to help. Please call us on 3737 4100 and leave a voicemail, or email maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Rainfall and river levels

Check the Brisbane City Council flood maps [here](#). If your home or work is in a section in blue, move people, pets, possessions and vehicles to higher ground if you haven't already.

[Click here](#) to check the river water level at St Lucia. Rainfall maps are available [here](#).

Roads and transport

A number of roads, including on the west side, are now closed. Check the [Qld Traffic website](#) or download the Qld Traffic app on your phone to check road conditions and closures.

Do not drive if you can avoid it, and if it's flooded, forget it.

It hardly needs saying, but please don't drive to flood-affected areas for "sightseeing". Not only is this dangerous, but it means more traffic on the road which has been making it difficult for emergency services to get around and help people in need.

Public transport services, including trains and buses, are not running. [Check the Translink website here for updates.](#)

Shelters and accommodation

I know lots of residents in Toowong and St Lucia and some other suburbs have been flooded. Right now Council is operating two emergency evacuation centres for those who can get there:

- Kedron Wavell Services Club at 21 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside
- Chandler Arena, Sleeman Sports Complex, Old Cleveland Road and Tilley Road, Chandler

Unfortunately there are currently no evacuation centres operating on the west side, so locals have been incredible in stepping in to offer accommodation for their neighbours (more on this below).

For those stuck outside Brisbane, a [list of evacuation centres in SEQ is here.](#)

Mutual aid and helping your neighbours

Lots of people have been using the local Facebook groups to seek and offer help, which is fantastic. I've repurposed the West Side Helping Hands for COVID-19 group as the [West Side Helping Hands - Mutual Aid group](#) which you can use to post offers and requests for help including accommodation.

I've also created a Google Document to act as an online community noticeboard for support on the west side. [You can view and directly add to the document here.](#) Please feel free to share this around, and add any information you have about local organisations who are offering support.

If you're in Fig Tree Pocket and need or want to offer help, you can also [join this Whatsapp group](#). The Mandalay Progress Association is also holding an online meeting at 12pm today to plan the post-flood cleanup - you can join via [this link](#).

The Anglican Church in St Lucia (3 Baty St) will be open until 5pm today. They're not able to offer full meals or accommodation but can provide light snacks and powerpoints for anyone who needs to charge their phone. You can contact the church on 3870 8887.

I understand there is a free community BBQ at Mitre St, St Lucia from 2pm today (Monday) if you're around that way and in need of a hot meal.

Thread Together can provide brand new clothing for folks affected by flooding and related emergencies. Contact them by emailing communications@threadtogether.org.

Meals on Wheels St Lucia is offering free (or pay what you can) hot or frozen meals. You can pick them up from the hub at 23 Guilfoyle St, St Lucia, or they can deliver them to you. Volunteers are also needed! Contact Meals on Wheels by emailing stlucia@mownorthwest.org.au, or call 3870 1670. If you have capacity to [donate to cover the cost of others' meals, you can do that here](#).

Water and Power

There are a number of power outages across the west side right now. [You can check outages here](#).

If you have lost power, your food will remain safe in your refrigerator for 2 hours. If it has been more than 4 hours, throw the food out. Don't open the fridge door during the power cut, unless necessary. Freezers that are in good condition and operate at minus 15 °C or below can keep foods at safe temperatures for between 1 and 2 days. If the freezer door is kept shut, a full freezer can keep food chilled for up to 48 hours, while a half full freezer can be kept food chilled for 24 hours. [Read more info here](#).

Remember, please stay away from power transformers and power lines. Report fallen power lines and other faults to Energex on 13 19 62.

Seqwater has been asking residents to conserve drinking water. We got some good news this morning that Mt Crosby is back online after the extreme weather and heavy rain impacted the treatment plant (as well as the North Pine plant) with sediment washing into creeks and waterways. Seqwater has clarified that you do not need to boil water and the current supply is safe to drink.

More help, contacts and updates

If you need help, contact the State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500 or download the SES Assistance app on your phone.

You can contact Council's 24-hour Contact Centre on 3403 8888 and the [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Facebook page](#) is another good source of updates.

Financial assistance

The Federal Government just announced financial support payments will be extended to Brisbane residents. Payments of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child are available under the Disaster Recovery Payment. The payment is a one-off, non-means tested payment and is available to eligible people in those affected local government areas (now including Brisbane) who have suffered a significant loss, including a severely damaged or destroyed home or serious injury. You can claim support via myGov or by calling Services Australia on 180 22 66 from 1pm today.

Although it's unclear whether Brisbane has been activated as a target area for Emergency Hardship Assistance Grants yet, these grants of \$180 per person (up to \$900 for a family of 5 or more) may also be made available from the Queensland Government to meet essential

needs for food, clothing, medical supplies or temporary accommodation. You can claim for 7 days following the activation of the grant in Brisbane by calling the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349, or [online via this link](#).

My office can also provide a limited number of financial assistance payments for Maiwar residents - please get in touch at maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au or call 3737 4100 if you need help.

I'll be posting more updates on my [Facebook page](#) as we have them.

Yours in hope,

Michael

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