

From: Kate Talbot
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 11:41 AM
To: Kerry Manifold; Shane Doherty
Cc: Tam van Alphen; Sharon Durham; Fiona McNamara; Annamika Calcino
Subject: For urgent approval - media statement re picking up kids and closures tomorrow

Given the very dangerous and unpredictable weather event currently occurring in south east Queensland, parents and carers in certain regions are being asked to collect their children from school early today. Schools tomorrow will only be open to children of essential workers, but students should stay at home wherever possible.

Parents and carers with children at schools in the below regions should collect their children from school today, when it is safe to do so:

- the northern Moreton Bay region
- Sunshine Coast
- Gympie
- Wide Bay up to Bundaberg

Education Minister Grace Grace said the safety of students and staff was paramount.

"In addition early collections in those areas today, tomorrow schools across the entire south east region will only be open for children of essential workers.

"However, the message is stay off the roads and stay at home unless you really need to be out.

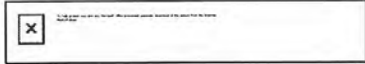
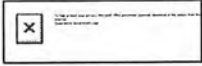
"This weather is of serious concern.

"Please listen into your local media stations and follow BOM warnings so you have all of the latest information, and stay safe."

Will add links to school closures, BOM etc

Released under RTI - DCS

From: Ministerial Media Statements QLD <no-reply@statements.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 12:01 PM
To: Shane Doherty
Subject: South East Queensland weather schools update



**Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations
and Minister for Racing**
The Honourable Grace Grace

South East Queensland weather schools update

Given the very dangerous and unpredictable weather event currently occurring in south east Queensland, parents and carers in certain regions are being asked to collect their children from school early today. Schools that can safely open tomorrow will only be open to children of essential workers, but students should stay at home wherever possible.

Parents and carers with children at schools in the below regions should collect their children from school today, when it is safe to do so:

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Information on Queensland state school closures can be found at <https://closures.qld.edu.au/>

Other schools will make local decisions depending on specific circumstances; please look out for updates from them.

To access online tools and resources to support students, visit the learning@home site at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>

Stay up-to-date with the latest Bureau of Meteorology warnings, including flood warnings, river levels at www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings

ENDS

Media contact - Kate Talbot, 0439 803 211

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[View more statements on our web site](#)

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(Department of the Premier and Cabinet)

Released under RTI - DPC

From: Fiona McNamara
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 12:22 PM
To: Shane Doherty
Cc: Kate Talbot; Sharon Durham; Tam van Alphen; @Premiers Media; Kerry Manifold; Annamika Calcino
Subject: Re: For urgent approval - media statement re picking up kids and closures tomorrow

Can we please check Grantham ?

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Mar 2022, at 12:19 pm, Shane Doherty <Shane.Doherty@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hold please

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Mar 2022, at 11:55 am, Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Confirming one line has been added to the release under the list:

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Will add links to school closures, BOM etc

On 3 Mar 2022, at 11:43, Sharon Durham
<Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Tam

From: Tam van Alphen <Tam.VanAlphen@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 11:43 AM
To: Shane Doherty <Shane.Doherty@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; @Premiers Media <premiers.media@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Kerryn Manifold <Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Annamika Calcino <Annamika.Calcino@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
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Looping in our digital team, so current messaging on socials can be updated for consistency.

Thank you
Tam

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To: Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Kerryn Manifold <Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Tam van Alphen <Tam.VanAlphen@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Annamika Calcino <Annamika.Calcino@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: For urgent approval - media statement re picking up kids and closures tomorrow

Good

Get grace on radio

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Mar 2022, at 11:40 am, Kate Talbot
<Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

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Cc: Sharon Durham; Tam van Alphen; @Premiers Media; Kerryn Manifold; Fiona McNamara; Annamika Calcino
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This has already been issued after the call between yourself, Grace and I
- <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/94607>

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From: Sharon Durham
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 12:25 PM
To: Fiona McNamara; Shane Doherty
Cc: Kate Talbot; Tam van Alphen; @Premiers Media; Kerryn Manifold; Annamika Calcino
Subject: RE: For urgent approval - media statement re picking up kids and closures tomorrow

It's all schools – Catholics and ISQ have been notified.

From: Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 12:23 PM
To: Shane Doherty <Shane.Doherty@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Tam van Alphen <Tam.VanAlphen@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; @Premiers Media <premiers.media@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kerryn Manifold <Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Annamika Calcino <Annamika.Calcino@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: For urgent approval - media statement re picking up kids and closures tomorrow

Sorry this needs to be specific that is state schools.

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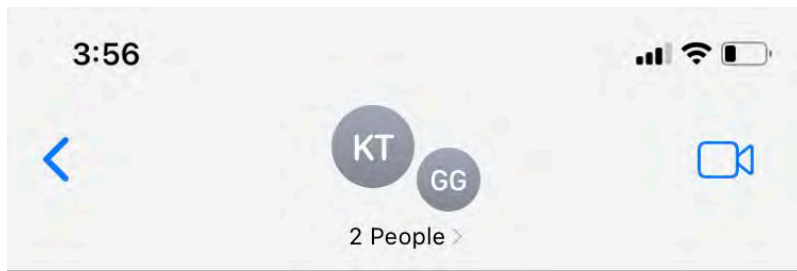
"This weather is of serious concern.

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Will add links to school closures, BOM etc

From: Brendon Strong <Brendon.Strong@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 1:38 PM
To: @Premiers Media <premiers.media@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FYI





iMessage
Thu, 3 Mar, 12:13 pm

Schools closed tomorrow
except for kids of essential
workers

Fri, 4 Mar, 6:17 am



This sent to baikey

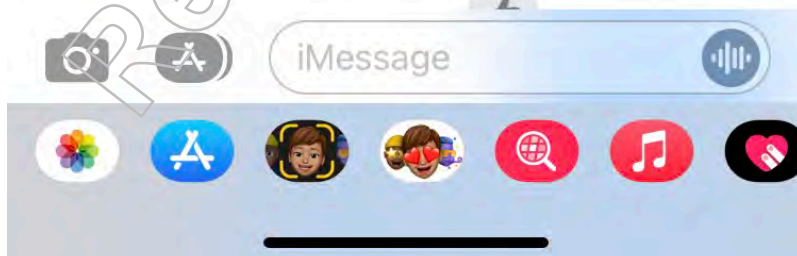
Boss suggesting a bit of radio
saying BOM advice is storms
this afternoon. Ok to drive this
morning but keep an eye on
latest advice. Very unusual
conditions. Ground utterly
saturated. Very prone to flash
floods

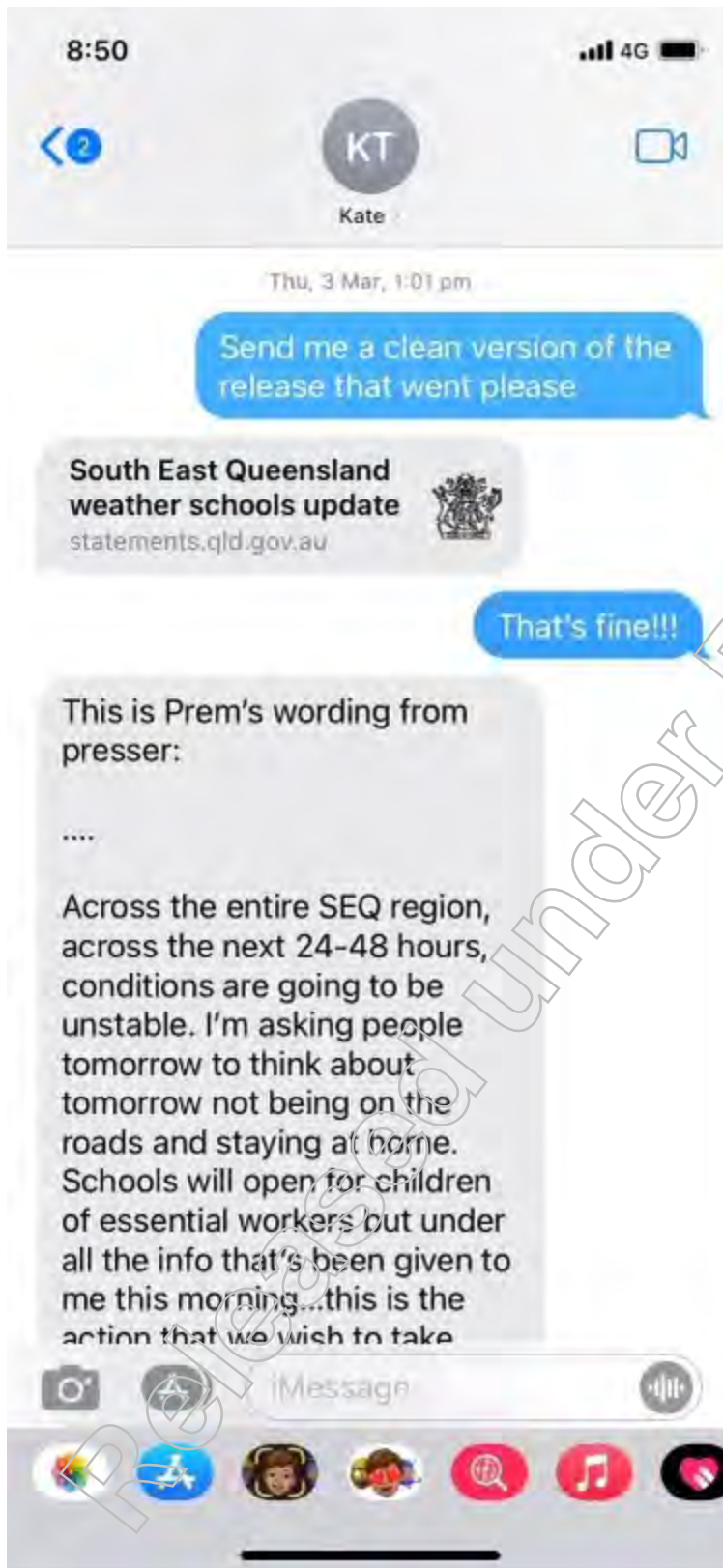
Kate Talbot

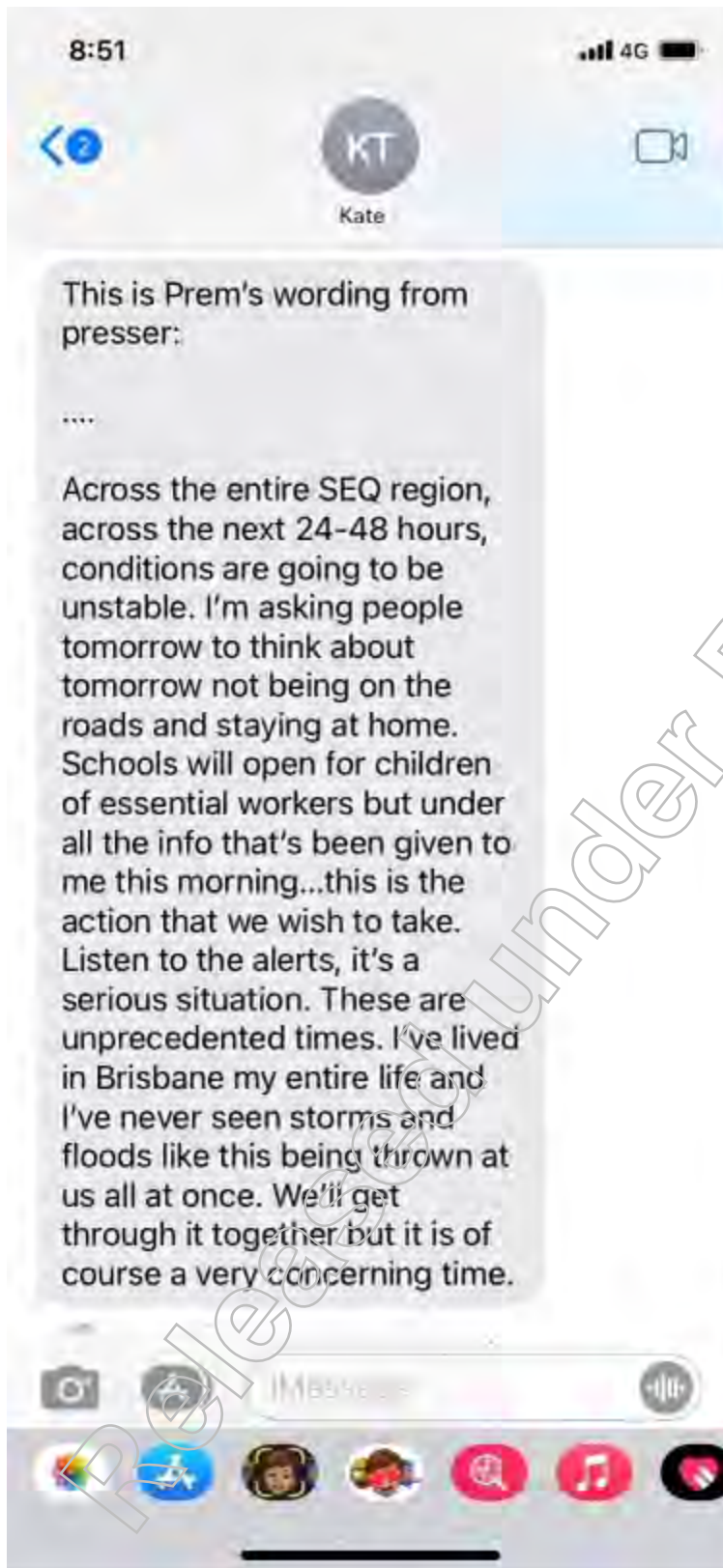
Thanks Shane. Grace on ABC
Brisbane at 7.20.

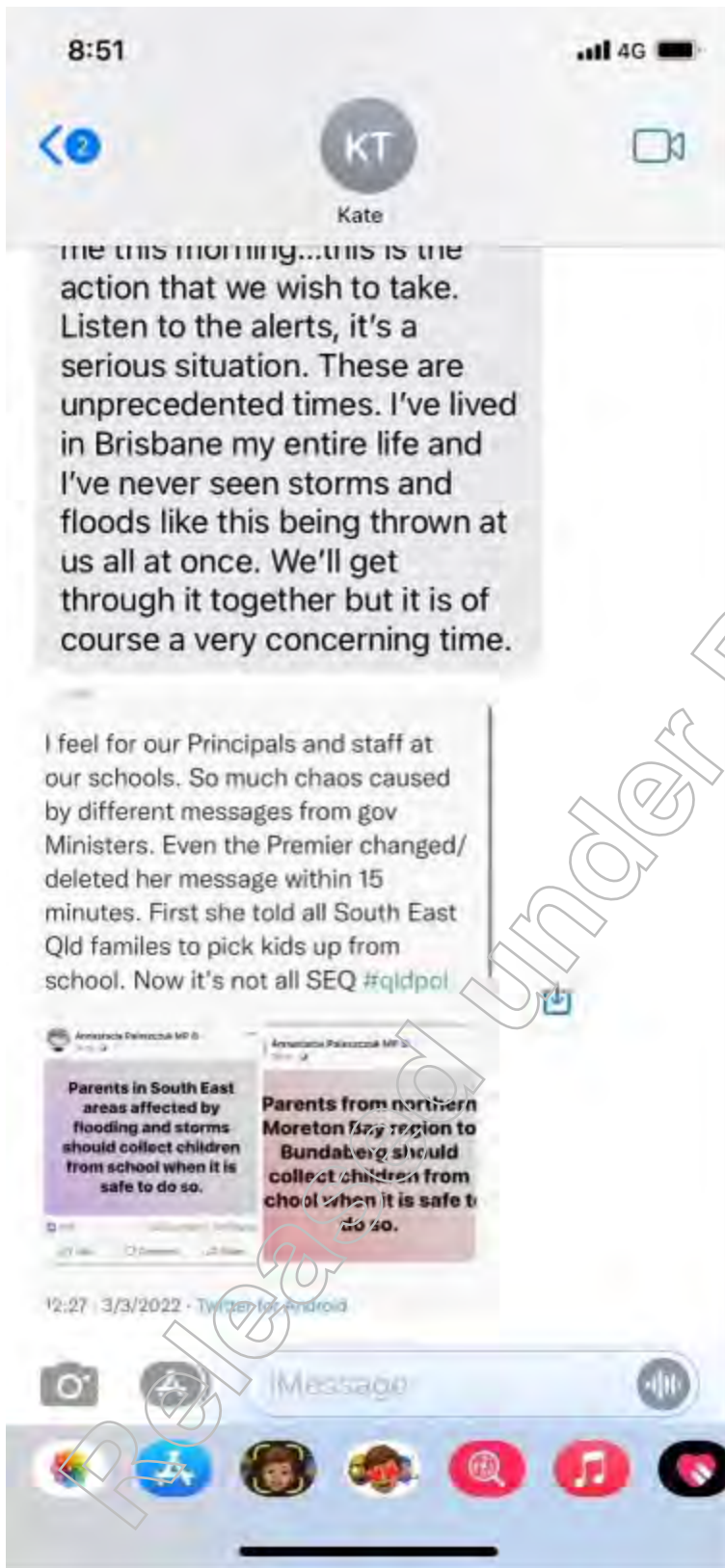
We can try make it earlier if
helpful

KT









Released Under RTI - DPC





RTI - DPC



Grace Grace MP

GG

I think that went well. Thanks for info.

Just caught tail end. Have asked for attendance numbers at schools yesterday. Handy if numbers were down regardless

Sun, 6 Mar, 10:08 am



From boss
Grace to update when can about school closures when known and do radio

Kate Talbot

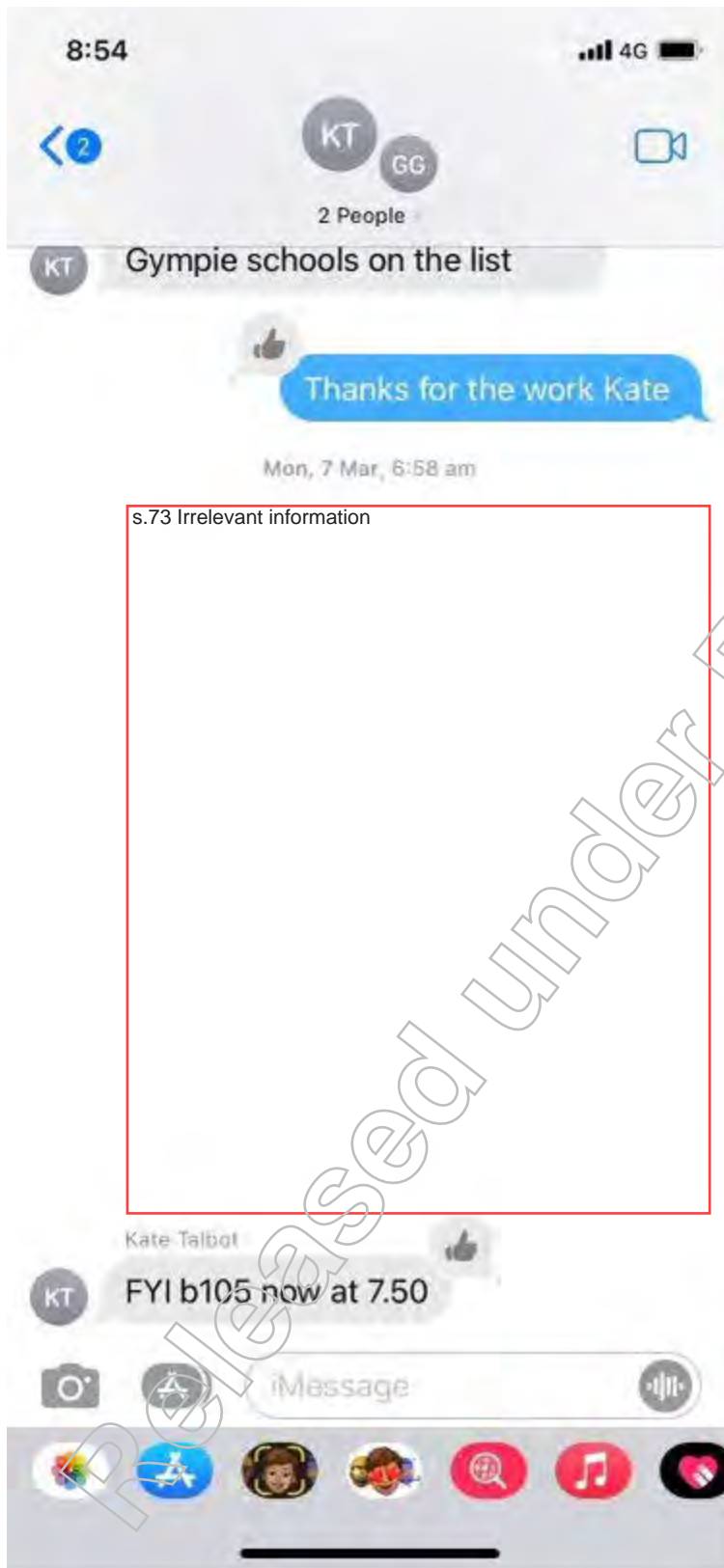
KT

We have an interview request from 7 too

s.73 Irrelevant information



s.73 Irrelevant information



s.73 Irrelevant information

Kate Talbot

FYI b105 now at 7.50

iMessage

s.73 Irrelevant information

From: Shane Doherty
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2022 2:12 PM
To: Kate Talbot
Cc: Kerryn Manifold
Subject: Re: Education - MR school clean up - 4 March 22
Attachments: image001.png; 04 March - Schools cleaning up after floods - MR (003) (003).docx

Ok
Sent from my iPhone

On 4 Mar 2022, at 2:09 pm, Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Annamika Calcino <Annamika.Calcino@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Date: 4 March 2022 at 12:09:35 AEST
To: "@Premiers Media" <premiers.media@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Talbot <Kate.Talbot@ministerial.qld.gov.au>, Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Education - MR school clean up - 4 March 22

Hi all,

Please find attached a MR regarding schools cleaning up after the floods. Kerryn – this is the one you discussed with Kate earlier.

This is to back in messaging from today and put out some proactive and positive comms. We can also include a Dropbox link with photos from the Milton SS and Aviation High visits this week.

Thanks
Annamika

Annamika Calcino
Media Advisor
Office of the Hon Grace Grace MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

p: s.73 Irrelevant | E: Annamika.Calcino@ministerial.qld.gov.au
1 William Street, Brisbane, Qld, 4000

4 March 2022

Minister thanks school communities for clean-up efforts

Education Minister Grace Grace has thanked school communities in South East Queensland for the ongoing clean up efforts following the impacts of storms and flooding.

"I know that many schools will face difficult times over the coming days as flood waters recede and damage can be fully assessed," Ms Grace said.

"I want to thank principals, school staff, and our entire school communities for the hard work that they've already put in, and for their ongoing efforts to get our schools open again.

"Thanks also to the dedicated QBuild and departmental staff who have been working hard every day to support schools that have been affected.

"They have been out to schools assessing damage and putting in place strategies to get them back up and running, where it is safe to do so.

"This week I have seen this incredible effort first hand at Aviation State High School and Milton State School, which have both been badly impacted by flood water.

"It is this amazing community spirit which will help us to get through this crisis."

Today (Friday 4 March 2022) all state and non-state schools across SEQ will only open wherever it is safe to do so for children of essential workers and children experiencing vulnerability. This includes schools in the following Local Government Areas:

- 📍 Brisbane City Council
- 📍 Bundaberg Council
- 📍 Fraser Coast Regional Council
- 📍 Ipswich City Council
- 📍 Moreton Bay Regional Council
- 📍 Noosa Shire council
- 📍 Sunshine Coast Council
- 📍 Lockyer Valley
- 📍 Somerset Regional Council
- 📍 City of Gold Coast Council
- 📍 Logan City Council
- 📍 Redland City Council
- 📍 Scenic Rim Regional Council
- 📍 Gympie Regional Council
- 📍 Wide Bay up to Bundaberg

"The advice that we received yesterday from the Bureau of Meteorology was that it would be a dangerous and unpredictable 48 hours.

"While we have seen it has been sunny in places at the moment, we know just how quickly the weather can turn.

"As the Premier said this morning, we apologise to the parents and carers in the south east for the inconvenience, however the health and safety of our students, staff and school community is our highest priority.

"Schools are communicating directly with students and families about arrangements regarding learning, and of course our excellent learning@home site is available too."

"We expect the majority of schools will be safe to reopen on Monday (7 March), except for the small number of schools that have had more significant damage and will need to be closed for longer to make the sites safe again.

"We are determined to open all our schools as soon as it is safely possible. We know that returning to school for staff and students is not only good for learning outcomes but also for health and well-being," Minister Grace said.

"Some schools need substantial cleaning and replacement of furniture, equipment, and floor coverings, while others have more significant damage and are going to need major repairs."

For schools that need to remain closed for a longer period of time, the department is looking at a number of plans including relocating students temporarily to nearby schools (bus transport provided), rotation of staff and students on school sites, remote learning options and use of temporary buildings.

"I can assure you that each school community will be supported to adjust to the changes that need to take place while we urgently repair infrastructure. "

"Thanks to the efforts of our amazing staff and school communities, we will soon be back open and learning in our wonderful schools throughout Queensland."

Information on Queensland state school closures can be found at <https://closures.qld.edu.au/>

To access online tools and resources to support students, visit the learning@home site at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>

Stay up-to-date with the latest Bureau of Meteorology warnings, including flood warnings, river levels at www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings

[ENDS]

Media contact: XXX

Released under RTIP

For awareness - posts sent by email

Jarrold Bleijie MP 28 mins
Re School Chaos
Hi everyone. I am desperately trying to get clarity around the school announcement made by the Premier an hour ago.
Since her announcement the Premier has had 3 different positions on her facebook site, some of which are now deleted.... See more

Istacia Palaszcuk MP **Istacia Palaszcuk MP**

Students in South East Queensland areas affected by flooding and storm could collect children from school when it is not safe to do so.

Students from northern schools across the South East Queensland region will only be able to collect children from school when it is not safe to do so.

351 Comments

Comment

29 reactions 30 comments 2 shares

Like Comment Share

David Crisafulli @DavidCrisafulli

Right now there is mass confusion across south-east Queensland.
The Premier's mixed messages regarding schools have caused chaos and confusion for parents and students.
I am calling on the Premier to hold another media conference this afternoon to clean up this mess.

1:36 pm · 3/3/2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Like



The social team need to urgently clarify where this is. Causing mass confusion

.@BOM_Qld is warning of dangerous and potentially life-threatening storms today. As a precaution, parents should be collecting children from school when it is safe to do so.
#qldfloods



Annastacia Palaszcuk

twitter.com

I'm getting media calls to clarify

Shane Doherty

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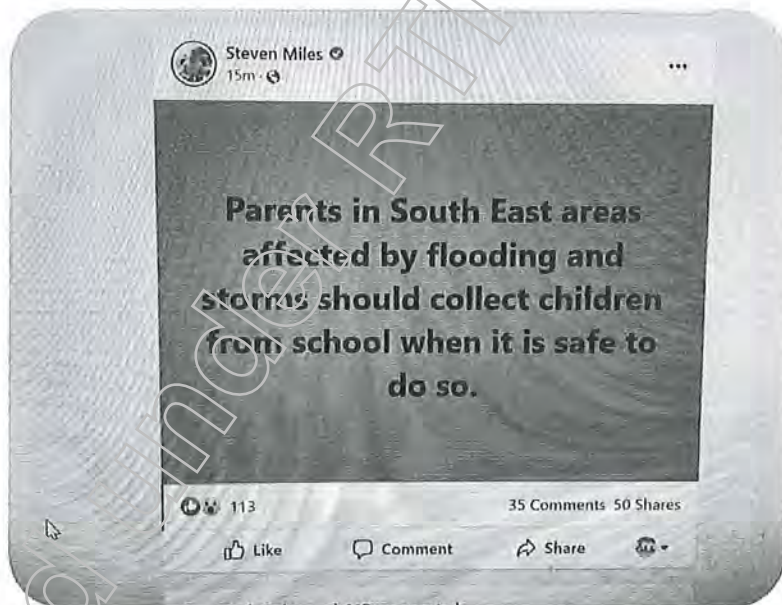
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SD



Released under RTI/DPC

Tam van Alphen

Absolute chaos and confusion in Brisbane schools as @AnnastaciaMP tells parents to pick kids up from school ... then changes her message 15 mins later. Chaos reigns supreme once again in schools @qldpol



Tim Mander

twitter.com



Mander on to it



Was not what Prem said though - she was clear in presser

Thu, 3 Mar, 12:07 pm

Shane Doherty left the conversation.

Its the lack of clarity in early social posts

Jon Persley

s.73 Irrelevant information



Release

From: Fiona McNamara
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 2:23 PM
To: @Premiers Media; @Premiers Policy
Subject: QTU newsflash Weather update - school closures

FYI fi

Sent from my iPhone

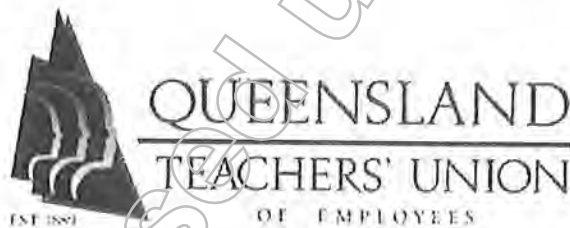
Begin forwarded message:

From: "KNOWLES, Samantha (slkno0)" <slkno0@eq.edu.au>
Date: 3 March 2022 at 1:31:22 pm AEST
To: Fiona McNamara <Fiona.McNamara@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Weather update - school closures

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Queensland Teachers' Union <nflash@qtu.asn.au>
Date: 3 March 2022 at 1:12:58 pm AEST
To: "KNOWLES, Samantha (slkno0)" <slkno0@eq.edu.au>
Subject: Weather update - school closures
Reply-To: Queensland Teachers' Union <nflash@qtu.asn.au>



Good afternoon colleagues,

Following on from our social media messages earlier this week, we have received advice from the department that the Minister and Premier have determined that schools in the south east will be closed tomorrow to all but vulnerable children and students of essential workers. This is due to the very dangerous and unpredictable weather event currently occurring in south east Queensland.

The QTU recognises that school leaders have been placed in a number of very trying and difficult situations this week while attempting to prioritise the safety of their school communities and their staff. Today's announcement is no different.

Parents in the northern Moreton Bay regions, Sunshine Coast, Gympie and the Wide Bay to Bundaberg have been encouraged to collect their children as soon as possible today (if it is safe to do so.)

Schools in other south east local government areas are being asked to communicate with their communities about the safe collection of their students.

Some schools will have made local decisions about the provision of remote learning to the communities as a consequence of school closures earlier this week. These local decisions will remain in place. For all other schools, students can access the [learning@home](#) site.

The message is to stay off the roads and stay at home unless you really need to be out. To this end, schools will be asked to provide minimal staffing to supervise students who attend tomorrow. All other staff should be supported to travel home safely and remain at home as per the Premier's advice.

We understand that a DG message will be sent to schools shortly.

Members who have lost possessions as a consequence of the most recent natural disaster may be eligible for support from the [QTU's natural disaster relief fund](#). More information about the fund can be found on the [QTU website](#).

The QTU understands that this is a very trying time for members having to deal with the effects of natural disasters and the uncertainty of the weather and the pandemic. We encourage all members to stay safe and take care of themselves.

Kate Ruttiman
General Secretary

Authorised by Kate Ruttiman, General Secretary, Queensland Teachers' Union

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s.73 Irrelevant info

From: Tam van Alphen
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 10:16 AM
To: @Cabinet Policy Advisors; @PremMediaOffice
Subject: FW: QDMC documents - BOM slides now provided
Attachments: s.73 Irrelevant information
Severe_Weather_Briefing_020320222.pdf

Sharing these for information about incoming weather.
Tam

-----Original Message-----

From: Kyla Hayden <Kyla.Hayden@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 6:51 AM
To: Jim Murphy <Jim.Murphy@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Tam van Alphen <Tam.VanAlphen@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jon Persley <Jon.Persley@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Shane Doherty <Shane.Doherty@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Kerryn Manifold <Kerryn.Manifold@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jack Harbour <Jack.Harbour@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: External - Rachel Hunter <Rachel.Hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sonya Reesby <sonya.reesby@premiers.qld.gov.au>; External - Mark Cridland <Mark.Cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: QDMC documents - BOM slides now provided

BOM slides now included.

Kyla

Kyla Hayden
Executive Director, Law and Justice Policy The Cabinet Office Department of the Premier and Cabinet

s.73 Irrelevant info

M
Email: Kyla.Hayden@premiers.qld.gov.au
Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Pages 35 through 36 redacted for the following reasons:

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Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



Severe Weather Briefing

Wednesday, 2nd March 2022

Released under RTI - DPC



Key messages



- **Numerous Major Flood Warnings continue across parts of southeast Queensland with a general easing trend in most catchments.**
- Severe thunderstorms with large hail, damaging winds and locally heavy rainfall will become likely around southeast Queensland from today and will persist into the weekend - this could lead to localised rises in creeks and streams that respond quickly to heavy, short duration rainfall.
- **There is the low probability, but potential high impact scenario of isolated "very dangerous" thunderstorms with giant hail, destructive winds and locally intense rainfall around southeast Queensland during Thursday afternoon and evening.**
- There is the potential that this thunderstorm activity could transition into areas of rain during Thursday and Friday around southeast Queensland, which may lead to renewed river rises in some of the already flood affected catchments.



Current Flood Warnings (as of 6am AEST Wednesday)



- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- Generalised
- Below Minor
- Final Warning



- Major Flood Warning for the lower Logan River.
 - Waterford (near Loganlea) peaked at 11.15m on Tuesday afternoon, above the level recorded during *Debbie* in 2017.
- Major Flood Warning for the Mary River.
 - Maryborough peaked at 10.30m on Monday night, below the level recorded during *Oswald* in 2013.
- Major Flood Warning for the Weir River.
- Major Flood Warning for the Condamine and Balonne Rivers.
- Moderate Flood Warning for the Lower Brisbane and Bremer Rivers.
 - Brisbane City reached 2.49m on Tuesday evening. A peak up to 2.60m is possible with the high tide this morning.



Forecast conditions – Thunderstorm Forecast



- Severe thunderstorms with large hail, damaging winds and locally heavy rainfall will become likely around southeast Queensland from today and will persist into the weekend - this could lead to localised rises in creeks and streams that respond quickly to heavy, short duration rainfall.
- There is the low probability, but potential high impact scenario of isolated "very dangerous" thunderstorms with giant hail, destructive winds and locally intense rainfall around southeast Queensland during Thursday afternoon and evening.

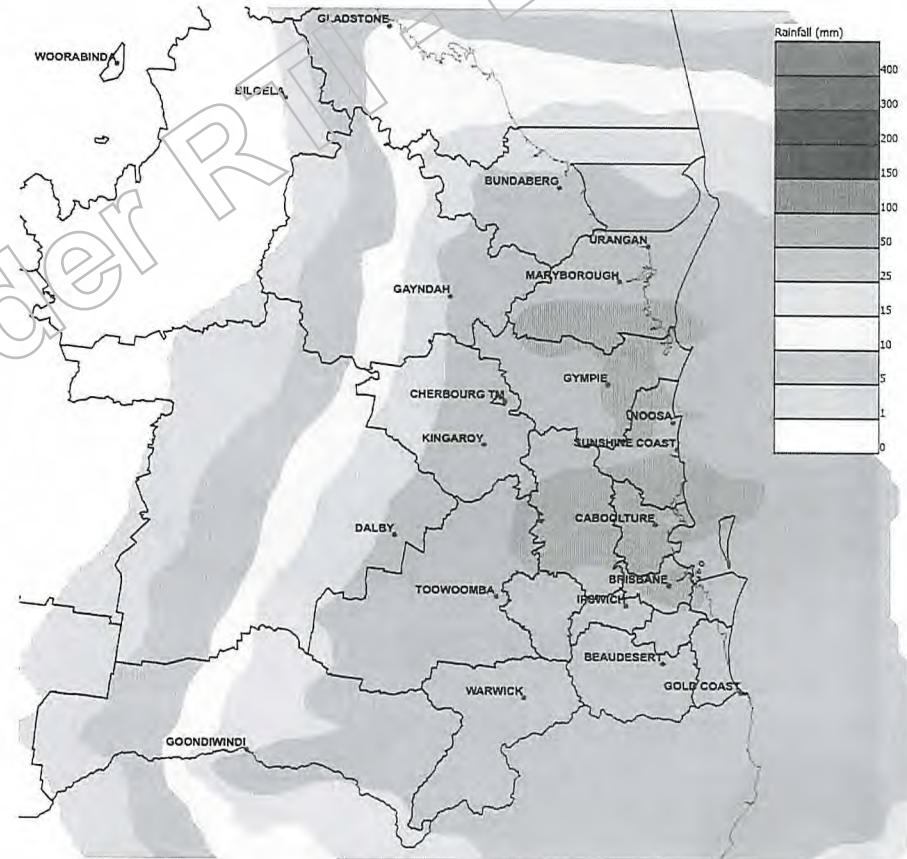
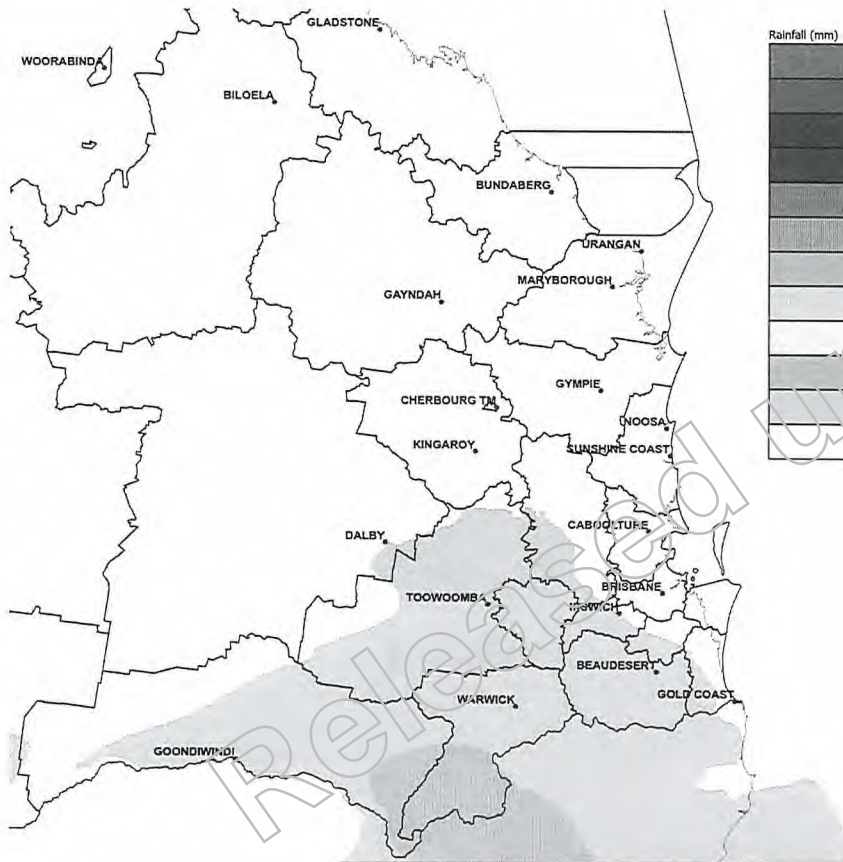


Forecast conditions – rainfall



Today

Thursday



Based on the Australian Digital Forecast Database output at 6am AEST Wednesday – image shows the 25% chance of getting the stated amount of rainfall, or more (local government boundaries in black)

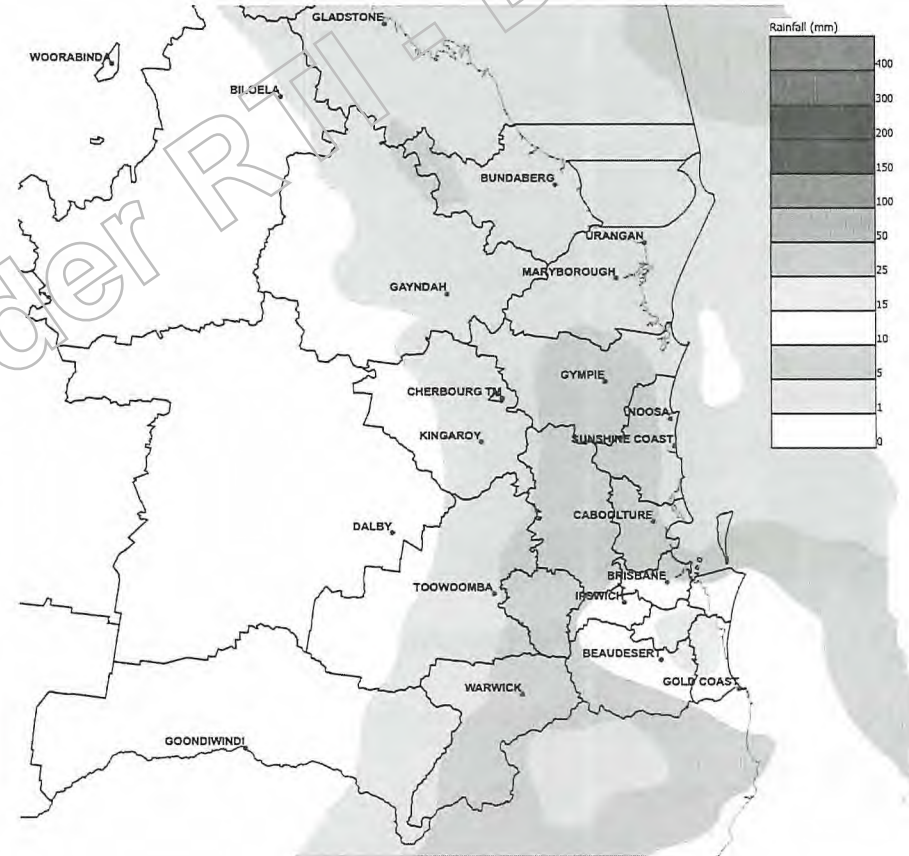
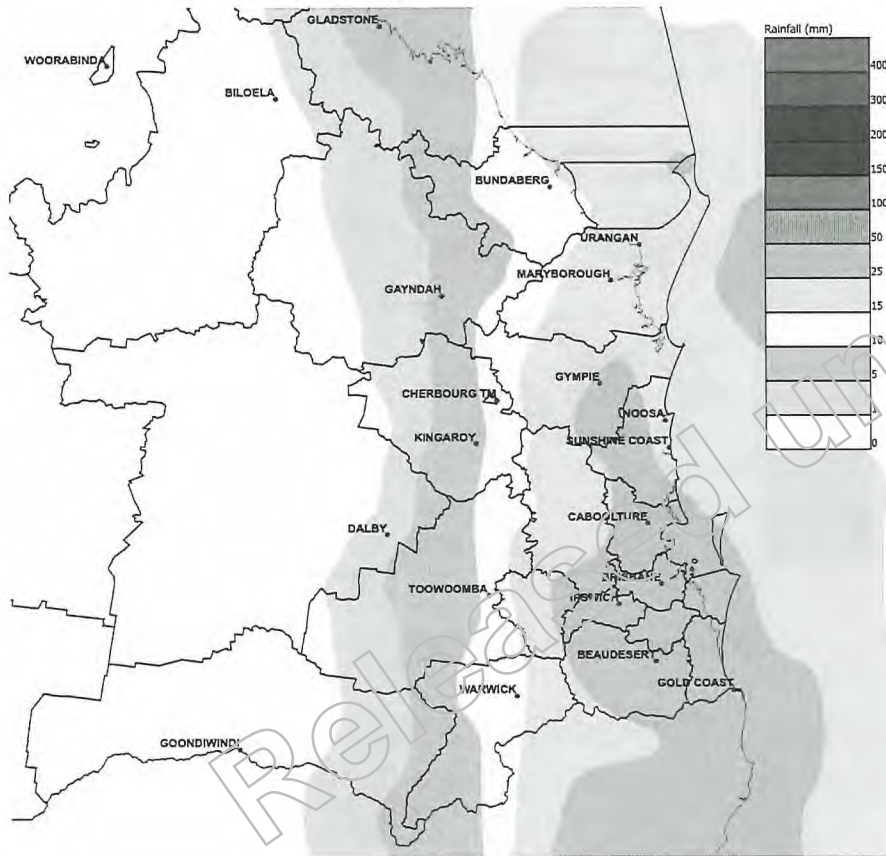


Forecast conditions – rainfall



Friday

Saturday



Based on the Australian Digital Forecast Database output at 6am AEST Wednesday – image shows the 25% chance of getting the stated amount of rainfall, or more (local government boundaries in black)

s.73 Irrelevant information

From: Premier
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2022 8:30 AM
To: 'The Premier'
Subject: FW: School

From: s.73 Irrelevant information
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2022 8:13 AM
To: Premier <premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; External - Inala Electorate Office <inala@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: School

Premier
Decisions have consequences. I cannot work today and this is also the end of your career. Your decision re schools today has secured your demise. You will be gone.

s.73 Irrelevant information

Graceville/Chelmer region

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