



Mike Baird
Premier of NSW
Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 17 December 2015

THANKYOU VISIT TO KURNELL COMMUNITY

NSW Premier Mike Baird, Minister for Emergency Services David Elliott, and Member for Cronulla and Environment Minister Mark Speakman today visited the storm-ravaged community of Kurnell and thanked emergency services workers.

Emergency services workers have responded to more than 660 calls for assistance and 11 flood rescues with people trapped in vehicles in floodwaters in the past 24 hours.

The hardest hit suburb of Kurnell held a community meeting today after about 40 houses suffered significant damage during wind speeds of up to 213kmh in the storm – the highest recorded wind speed in NSW.

Fire & Rescue NSW have warned that some damaged properties may contain asbestos and they are individually assessing properties in Kurnell today.

“Emergency crews are doing everything they can to make the community safe and they deserve our patience and profound gratitude,” Mr Baird said.

The insurance industry has declared a catastrophe to enable industry resources to be fully harnessed to assist affected communities. Residents are encouraged to call the industry hotline on 1800 734 621 with inquiries about the claims process.

Residents with limited financial resources and no insurance may be eligible for assistance for essential household items and structural repairs to their home.

“The welfare of these communities is important and we will make sure you have the support you need to recover as soon as possible,” Mr Elliott said.

Utility authorities are working to restore power as soon as possible and homeowners should contact their provider for further information.

Environment Minister Mark Speakman announced today the State Emergency Operations Control has approved the immediate release of \$200,000 to help affected residents clean up asbestos as a result of the severe storms.

“The NSW Government is helping all it can by waiving the waste levy for all waste in the Kurnell area, as well as helping fund the clean-up of asbestos,” Mr Speakman said.

Information about disaster relief grants is available by contacting the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444. An evacuation centre has also been set up at Cronulla Sharks Leagues Club for affected residents.