



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, 8 January 2020

### **BILPIN BLOOMS FROM THE ASHES**

Local Bilpin resident and business owner Phillip Miscuso and his wife Nichole were lucky to escape with their house and lives after a fire tore through their property in Bilpin.

Mr Miscuso, the owner of a flower growing business, Bilpin Blooms Farm, fought off the flames that surrounded his property despite fierce winds rapidly changing the ferocity and direction of the fire.

The dam on the property is used to irrigate crops and flowers but Phillip welcomed the RFS water bombing aircraft who needed to access this water to save properties at Colo Heights and beyond.

While much of Phillip's flowers and produce were destroyed, he wanted to get his business up and running to be able to plant seedlings to meet the growers market for Mother's Day – an impossible task without his dam being refilled.

Robyn Preston, Member for Hawkesbury, heard of Phillip's dilemma and wanted a quick resolution to the situation.

"In these tough times, I was pleased that the NSW Government was able to make a swift decision to restore one million litres of water to Mr Miscuso's dam, commencing within 48 hours."

"I also want to thank Local Land Services for stepping up and making this happen. The NSW Government wants to support local businesses impacted by bushfires and restoring the dam water at Bilpin Blooms Farms meant that five staff remained employed. Overall it's a great outcome for the firefighting efforts, the community and local business."

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