



Speech by

Mr LEN STEPHAN

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard 25 March 1999

GYMPIE FLOODS

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie—NPA) (7.27 p.m.): In February this year businesses and houses in Gympie were inundated by flood waters. Buildings suffered very badly and many businesses were forced to close for two, three or four weeks. As a matter of fact, one or two have not opened since. We cannot help but feel for them because of the damage that has been caused.

When the Premier came to Gympie, the people were given some hope when he told them that the Government would make available low-interest long-term loans. They went along with the idea that they would be able to do the repair work and the loan money would cover the cost. Unfortunately, it is not quite as easy as that. There were a number of problems associated with it. The people had to go through the process of making applications through the banks and also through the Government. When both the banks and the Government turned down those applications, they had nowhere to go. So instead of getting some assistance, they were left out on a limb.

Under those sorts of conditions, we cannot help but feel for those people. We must give them some hope, even at this late stage. The criteria involved are the same as have been with us for a while, and I pointed out to residents that they needed the bank or another lender to approve their application for them.

Time expired.
