




Speech by  
**Ian Rickuss**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

Hansard Tuesday, 5 June 2012

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## **LOCKYER ELECTORATE, FLOODS**

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (11.14 pm): I rise to speak on an issue of much concern in my electorate. The devastating floods that happened in January 2011 have ramifications that continue. Unfortunately, the Coroner's inquest reported today in Toowoomba and it really is quite damning. The Coroner stated—

I can make no formal recommendations because of the year-long flood commission.

This has left a lot of unanswered questions for many families in the Lockyer Valley and surrounds. It really is disappointing. Members of my community have been calling for a judicial inquiry into this, and I think I am going to have to support them in those calls. This really is important and I am going to read the Coroner's report to see what Coroner Michael Barnes has to say. The flood commission had very tight terms of reference, so as a result it was not looking at these issues either. It has been tied up in red tape in that the flood commission could not report on it because it was outside its terms of reference and the Coroner then could not report on it because of the flood commission. It really has been a strange cacophony of information that has been left out of the whole report and therefore we might need a judicial inquiry to look into this.

I will be talking to the Attorney-General and the police minister about this, and I hope that they have an open mind about this. It really is a concerning turn of events where the Coroner is saying that he could not report on this because of the commission of inquiry. The families really do deserve to have this judicial inquiry. Over 20 lives were lost in my area and the surrounding area. Some 25 lives were lost if one takes into account Toowoomba and Marburg. This really is a concerning issue. We want to get the appropriate answers so that this does not happen again. We do not want this sort of thing to happen again. The Disaster Management Act was not in place properly. Many things missed the mark. No-one joined the appropriate dots. The flooding actually started at about midday at Esk and then went on to Toowoomba and then went to the Lockyer Valley. Grantham itself that day was actually fine. There was very little rain at Grantham that day at all. This disaster happened because people were just not joining the dots. The inquiries have not really looked into the deaths properly because of the two conflicting inquiries—the flood commission and the inquiry by the Coroner. We might need a judicial inquiry into this to satisfy the families, because it is devastating for families who have lost loved ones in this event.