



Speech by


**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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## SHOVEL AND GARDNER CREEKS

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.30 pm): I would like to raise a serious issue, which has been raised in this parliament many times. It takes a light rainfall to cause flooding at the low-lying Shovel and Gardner creeks on the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Pentland. Flooding has occurred eight times this year, cutting access from the Northern Territory and north-west Queensland mineral province. An estimated 600 vehicles use the road every day, including military vehicles, cattle trains, tourist and school buses, and private vehicles.

In his response to a question on notice on 7 June, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads advised that, owing to the massive debt, all available funding has been committed to other priorities and locations and that the government has no immediate plans to upgrade this section. The north-west region of Queensland produces great wealth for the state, filling state Treasury coffers. I wish to read and table a letter from year 11 student Samantha Pryor, who lives in Pentland and travels to and from school at Charters Towers by bus. The letter states—

To whom it may concern,

So I'm waiting again because once again I'm sitting here awake at 4.30am on a Tuesday morning waiting for a phone call from Mum (Deb Albrecht) to say that we can't get to Townsville for my doctor's appointment because Shovel Creek is over. Sure enough half an hour later I get a phone call saying that Shovel is over and rising!

Does it surprise you? Well it doesn't surprise me! Then I thought well I can't even get to school either because of Shovel! Second day of school and 3rd term has only just started and this is only 1 day out of 10 that I will miss this term because the council won't fix Shovel Creek! I apologise for the rudeness but I'm sorry.

When I do get into town I see the council working on a little pot hole in the road and they lay 10m long of new gravel. Sounds silly doesn't it? Well I'm afraid that is what the Government does. That money could be used to go towards fixing Shovel Creek!

I will be getting a petition signed by local members and tourists that agree Shovel needs to be fixed. ASAP. And hopefully some more letters that the council can read through. Now I can imagine how annoying I'm getting with these letters, but I will not give up until Shovel is fixed in the next 6 months! If not the letters will get more annoying and I will even go down to Shovel myself when it's over and take photos and interview people that are sitting there waiting for Shovel to go down.

I am grade 11 this year and I need to be at school to get my QCE to say that I passed grade 12. Because without that I won't get a great job that I am hoping for. I need to be at school copying down notes and sitting my exams, but I can't do that because I'm stuck here for another day because Shovel Creek is over.

If you're going to reply with 'I'm sorry we don't have the funds to fix it' That is a load of bull. As I said before the Government wastes the funds on little problems that are not in desperate need to fix straight away. The funds could be going to Shovel Creek.

That's all I would like to say for now. I will be sending the petition separately. It would be appreciated to hear back that the Government WILL be doing something about Shovel Creek in the next 6 months.

Kind Regards,

Samantha Pryor