



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 June 2015

## MOTION

### Callide Creek Flood Review Report



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): I move—

That this House authorises the publication of the 2015 Callide Creek Flood Review Report, Volume 1: Report and Volume 2: Appendices.

My government is committed to ensuring the best possible disaster management arrangements are in place to protect all Queenslanders. As part of that commitment, in February the government tasked the Inspector-General Emergency Management to undertake a review of events relating to the flooding of Callide Creek in Central Queensland in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Marcia. Many homes were damaged and flooded and there were widespread impacts to farms and businesses and emotional trauma to many, many families.

While speaking with residents and inspecting the damage to properties in the Callide Valley after the event, I was told by concerned residents that the operations of the Callide Dam may have exacerbated the flooding. We promised that we would leave no stone unturned in order to find answers to the community's questions, and that is what we have done.

In his review the Inspector-General looked at a number of matters including the impact of the flooding, how disaster management arrangements functioned, telecommunications issues and whether the operations of the Callide Dam meaningfully affected the extent of the flooding.

I can now advise the House that the review found that, regardless of how Callide Dam was operated during the rain event, the communities along the Callide Valley would still have experienced a major flood. Despite this, the Inspector-General also noted systemic difficulties in relation to warnings and education by SunWater and the local disaster management group. It is clear that the time taken to issue alerts in relation to the opening of the dam gates could have been considerably reduced.

Among other recommendations, the Inspector-General has recommended undertaking a joint study with SunWater to determine whether or not it is feasible to operate Callide Dam as a flood mitigation dam. He also recommends SunWater and Banana Shire Council jointly develop a multichannel common warning strategy with common language and consistent messaging. The review also includes an independent hydrological assessment and a commissioned telephone survey of 406 Banana shire residents focusing on impacts and knowledge of disaster management matters.

In undertaking this review, the Inspector-General has undertaken a comprehensive volume of work to get to the bottom of these issues. In coming to its conclusions, the Inspector-General referred to a number of matters which has resulted in the moving of this motion and the tabling of the review report. This is not the first occasion on which a motion of this nature has been moved and carried by this House. On 1 May 2003 then premier Peter Beattie tabled a report titled *Report of the board of*

*inquiry into past handling of complaints of serial abuse in the Anglican Church Diocese of Brisbane.* The printing of that report by parliament, a report commissioned by the Anglican Church, allowed it to be released into the public domain. On 18 April 2013 the former attorney-general the member for Kawana took similar action in relation to the Callinan-Aroney review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Today's motion will allow precisely the same thing to occur. In this instance, as there was on the past two occasions, there is also a substantial and justified public interest in this report being made available to the public. The Inspector-General will host a public meeting at the Biloela Civic Centre at 6 pm tomorrow to provide details on the review findings and recommendations to the community and to answer public questions relating to the report. I want to assure the community that the review's findings will be fully considered by my government.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.