




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.03 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the recent South-East Queensland storms that ravaged parts of our state. In particular I would like to speak about the effects those storms had on the Woodridge electorate. On Friday, 1 May wild weather swept through the south-east of Queensland tragically taking the lives of five people. Communities across the south-east were drenched with up to 100 millimetres, or four inches on the old scale, of rain in an hour causing massive traffic delays and flooding the homes of hundreds of people.

These storms affected many people within the electorate of Woodridge. Nearly 1.7 metres of water rushed through a number of homes in the Woodridge electorate damaging fridges, washing machines, barbecues, family cars and bedding. Precious family photo albums and books were also lost as a result of the flash flooding. On Friday, 15 May I doorknocked a number of residents and families in the storm affected areas of the Woodridge electorate, including homes in Tamarind Street and Kurrajong Drive, Marsden. I visited Mrs Michelle Featherstone and Mrs Norris Ramos who both lost a large number of their household possessions. They were very distressed over losing priceless family heirlooms and photo albums due to flooding. They both also had to undertake a huge amount of work to remove destroyed property from their houses and clean up the mud and debris that enveloped their yards. One ray of light for Mrs Ramos was the survival of her pet chihuahua, Killer, who managed to escape the storm unscathed.

Two other residents who were severely affected by the storm included Mrs Peta Martin and Mrs Layla Issa. Peta was without hot water for more than four days, having to use a kettle to make a warm bath for her children, while Layla lost her washing machine, making it impossible to provide clean clothes for her children.

Ours is a strong and resilient community. The individuals and families I have mentioned today are courageous and determined. They are fighting back, as Woodridge always does. The department of communities has provided important assistance to these storm affected families. A community recovery hub at Marsden scout hall was set up to provide relief and support to residents. I dropped into the hub last Friday where I saw firsthand the vital work being undertaken by the staff and volunteers for storm affected residents. I would like to thank Mr Patrick Sherry from the department of communities, who was the officer managing the recovery effort in Marsden, as well as all the staff and volunteers from the department, the Red Cross, Lifeline, as well as my mighty electorate office team, Kylie and Peter, who continue to work to help our community through this recovery.