




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Murrumba Electorate, Severe Weather Event

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (2.53 pm): I wish to draw to the attention of the House the flood events of Friday, 1 May in the seat of Murrumba and the subsequent disaster recovery efforts by the Palaszczuk government. As we know, five lives were tragically lost in this storm. It was calculated to be a one-in-2,000-year rain event. The Moreton Bay council area received up to 380 millimetres worth of rain and 277 millimetres in three hours. It is a record-breaking amount.

In Murrumba, the areas of Deception Bay, Rothwell and Mango Hill backing on to the saltwater creek catchment were inundated by waters that I calculate were between 80 centimetres to one metre above the Q100 line. How many places had water through them? I have heard reports that 100 had water through them and that fire services have inspected up to 300 houses for damage.

I walked down Major Street in Deception Bay on Saturday and I saw that every single house on either side had between 30 centimetres of water and 1.5 metres of water through them—every single one. Residents said that the water came up in a torrent within 15 to 20 minutes. It was a torrent and they had no time to save anything. Every house lost everything. In the face of this devastating flood, I am truly thankful to the efforts of the state government and the Moreton Bay Regional Council. I have seen many floods during my 12 years on council, but it is the coordination of the disaster relief at a cabinet level by this government that will stand out in my mind.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk came to see us on Major Street on Sunday. She announced immediate hardship assistance grants of \$180 per person or \$900 per family. Jo-Ann Miller, the police and emergency services minister, came out on Saturday, listened carefully to local residents and immediately liaised with the police and her cabinet colleagues Kate Jones and Minister Dick. The Deception Bay SES was there in numbers within one hour. Jackie Trad, as Minister for Planning, was in immediate contact listening to the concerns of the community raised through me. As we know, yesterday she announced an independent investigation of the possible effects of works associated with the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

After a call to Minister Shannon Fentiman, we had a team of community recovery workers from the department of community services on the ground within two hours. The Minister for Education, Kate Jones, has authorised relief payments by local principals to affected students who have lost school uniforms, shoes, books, iPads, everything. Minister Mark Bailey has reopened Operation Energise, where unpaid and voluntary ETU members and employees of electricity generators will check the electrical safety of connections in flood affected houses.

I fully appreciate the cooperation of the Moreton Bay Regional Council. It arranged for food vouchers from local Subway owners. It opened up the recovery centre on Morris Road and placed 60 skips next to flood affected properties. I am so proud of the resilience and tenacity of my local residents as they face this debilitating disaster, and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government that has acted so promptly and professionally with such a high degree of coordination. We will keep on working on this long process of recovery.