




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

MOTION

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.53 pm): So far we have seen the member for Glass House act as an apologist for Canberra and the member for Albert simply not address the question whatsoever. After five minutes, we have no idea whether he stands for Queensland or Canberra.

Four months ago, on the evening of the peak of the floods caused by Tropical Cyclone Debbie, I went from door to door visiting with locals in North Maclean on the Logan River. Residents had to surrender to the flood as the water rose over their makeshift barriers. They were stoic and even cheerful with black humour. They sought to check that friends and neighbours were okay, even as their own homes went under. That is the spirit of Logan. We look out for others first, even in the toughest of times.

I want to tell one story of the hundreds from Logan. On a street near the North Maclean Bridge a family lived in a house with their grandparents on one side. Shane and Sam, the parents of teenage kids, are members of the Greenbank Scouts. I saw them as their house went under. All of their worldly goods were in piles on the street. The next morning when I returned, the whole scout community had rallied to the collective cause. They had a tent set up to feed volunteers and a whole army cleaning, clearing and fixing. It is the spirit of Logan to lend a helping hand to those in need.

We hope the government is like the neighbours and friends of Logan, as we too step in during difficult times to help out our friends and neighbours. The Premier came to North Maclean and took the time to hear Shane and Sam's story at their house. She was amazed at their resilience. She said that this government, the Palaszczuk government, would stand by the Logan community. We have done that. In this budget we have put forward \$110 million to pay our half of the \$220 million economic recovery and resilience package that we need to repair our state. The Premier has been true to the words she said to Shane and Sam.

However, the same cannot be said of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Cyclone Debbie caused enormous economic damage, which has been made worse by the insult the Prime Minister has made to Queensland. This is our chance to send a message to the LNP in Canberra that it is failing Queensland. I agree with something said by another member of this place—

I don't care if the Prime Minister's office gets uncomfortable with what I'm saying here ... we have projects that I believe meet the criteria where Canberra has given us the 'up yours' signal.

I say to the member for Whitsunday: we will see. He acts the lion in Whitsunday, but down here in Brisbane he is the LNP sheep. If he cannot condemn his party's failure through this vote, everyone in Whitsunday will know that he stands for nothing. I support all Queenslanders damaged by this flood and that is why I support this motion.

We know where the member for Whitsunday stands when others were hurt by floods. He described the damage caused to infrastructure on the Albert and Logan rivers—and I note that the member for Albert did not condemn him—as ‘irrelevant’. Hearing the LNP member describe their suffering as irrelevant, many locals in Logan wrote to me to express their outrage. I will read to the House what they think of LNP members who say that. Lisa wrote—

I wonder if he would be brave enough to sit in a room and tell the 27 farmers impacted by Cyclone Debbie in Logan, ‘You are irrelevant!’ The losses on our farm also impacted our 8 staff and their families!

Kirsty-Anne wrote—

We were ‘lucky’ we only rented so ‘only’ lost household contents that took nearly a week to clean out with the help of the Mud Army friends and family.

Lennie Chant wrote—

Yes its irrelevant that after many months and still having to pay a mortgage on a house that is completely in shatters, unable to be lived in, yes very irrelevant that many of us are suffering more now than ever.

Judith wrote—

So ... it's irrelevant that some people are still not back in their homes ... come down here & say it to their faces ... you'll soon find out what it's like to be irrelevant!!

Now is the time for this House to send a really clear message to Prime Minister Turnbull that he is irrelevant to Queensland. His lack of commitment to Queensland in our time of need shows that the LNP does not understand the spirit of Logan. They do not get what it is like to be a Queenslander through thick and thin. I urge all members of this House to send a clear message to the people of Queensland that, if the LNP in Canberra cannot stand up and support Queensland because they think we are irrelevant, it will be the LNP that is irrelevant in Queensland.