



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Prawn Industry**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.59 pm): From sugar industry woes over the last 12 months or so to the recent floods where we saw boat ramps with more than a metre of mud on them; a house with its dance studio downstairs and other small businesses being wiped out; cars and motorbikes and all manner of metal roofing, side panels and so forth being smashed up against trees, trying to get into the Albert River—we saw all sorts of things. In amongst all of that, we saw \$25 million worth of prawns wiped out.

Having had the opportunity over the last five months to look back, I realise that the whole concept of what was done with those prawns and those prawn farmers has been mismanaged by Biosecurity Queensland. Those farmers lost everything through absolutely no fault of their own. They were looking for support and looking for help. I can say one thing is absolutely certain: the federal government and the state opposition have been there supporting them.

Senator Barry O'Sullivan came to see me. He implemented an inquiry for the prawn farmers to find out what had gone wrong—where the fault lay. That has happened. I also arranged for him to come and do a forum in the canelands to talk to the prawn farmers—it was not just the farmers on the river; it was also the wild catch farmers. We also had the cane industry issue for him to have a look at. We had two sessions. They both went exceptionally well. Everyone in the canelands area, where it seemed like everything was coming at them, were very, very appreciative.

Finally they have something to smile about, with the federal government now coming forward—after a lot of lobbying from me, Barry O'Sullivan, the opposition office and others—with a \$20 million package. Sadly, the state government has chosen not to engage in that package. There is going to be a lot more money needed. Another \$10 million from the state government would have been well received and needed by those farmers but, sadly, that is yet to be seen. In fact, they have been told, 'No. It is not going to happen.' At least that \$20 million was something for them to smile about.

Something else for all of us to smile about is that the prawn day is going ahead this Friday at 148 Marks Road, Woongoolba. Please, if you want to support that local area, make sure you buy your tickets and come on down to the prawn day on Friday.