




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Logan, Disaster Recovery

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.12 pm): I rise tonight to put on the record my admiration for my community of Waterford as we rebuild from the worst flooding in a lifetime. On 1 April heavy rain from ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused a one-in-100-year flood across Logan, and many families are still picking up the pieces from this disaster. However, I want to focus not only on the floodwaters and their devastating impact but also the one thing that shone through clear and bright through this disaster: the Logan spirit. No matter whose home I went to or which resident I was speaking to at an evacuation centre, each and every person was determined to not only rebuild but also assist those around them, reminding me that as long as you have your health and family and friends everything else can be replaced. This perspective and resilience impressed me every day and it still does as we continue to recover.

I was also want to pay tribute to local businesses who espouse the Logan spirit like the IGA at Loganholme, which asked people to drop their food from their fridges in to them so they could keep them cold so they did not lose all of their groceries. Rebecca Cobbing and her family at the White House of Waterford cooked delicious food for our brave SES crews. The White House of Waterford backs on to the Logan River, and they kept their kitchen running while the floodwaters crept closer and closer to their restaurant. Colin Patino from Patino Lawyers at Meadowbrook donated \$7,500 worth of food vouchers that he and his business purchased for those affected. Louie and Christine Naumovski from the Logan House Fire Support Network normally deal with house fires, but that did not stop them from opening up the Bethania community hall and filling it to the brim with donations of food and clothing for their fellow 'Loganites' in need. There are so many other tales of individuals and businesses who chipped in in our time of need, and to them I want to say a very heartfelt thank you.

I also want to place on record my thanks to Mayor Luke Smith and his Logan City Council team, who led our city with strength and composure, demonstrating exceptional leadership. I finally want to thank my neighbours Karl, Larissa, John and Linda, who were at my house as the floodwaters rose doing what they could, as I was out at the local disaster centre with my constituents. When I talk about the Logan spirit I am not talking about something that I am removed from; I am speaking of something that I have personally experienced over the past month. Logan really is an incredibly strong and resilient city with a big heart. The recent flooding may have been incredibly devastating for so many across Logan, but it cannot and will not dampen our spirit.