




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.55 pm): The electorate of Logan is filled with great Queenslanders who work hard together for their families, their neighbours, the local community and their state and country. This was never truer than during the floods of 2017 when Logan people pitched in to help others. I was deeply moved by the spirit of people facing tough times themselves looking to help others.

On the night before the day of the major flood I visited many homes of those who were under threat from the floodwaters and even those whose houses were beginning to go under water. For example, on the evening of the floods I visited those in the houses on Beryle Parade in North Maclean near the bridge that crosses the Logan River. In the evening the floodwaters cut the highway there, flooding the bridge, and then rose steadily until water was coming into people's houses. Families moved their possessions and pets to higher ground.

One family I met were completely unfazed. They had moved everything up to the second floor and were having a drink. They had the petrol high-pressure water cleaner ready and poised to spray out their house the very moment the water receded. The next day I saw that same family helping clean out the houses of others. I should also recognise the Amaydia community, the Greenbank Scout Group and so many other groups and individuals who helped others. I also thank the Premier because she took the time to come and visit Beryle Parade during the clean-up in North Maclean and spend time with the Greenbank Scout Group volunteers and the families who were flooded.

To further illustrate the spirit of Logan to help others first, I want to speak about another family in North Maclean. Lynda and her family lived in a much more isolated spot in North Maclean. During the afternoon when the waters were receding I drove up their road and long driveway. I could not see any signs of damage from a distance. I was not even sure they had actually been flooded.

When I reached the house I met Lynda for the first time. Her house had simply been smashed by the floods. The possessions and memories of a lifetime were under water and almost everything they owned was destroyed. Their white besser brick house was cracking. Even the charity goods they collected for Papua New Guinea were damaged.

Lynda was in a wheelchair and was sitting in her sodden yard with her young grandson sitting on her lap and other family members around. As I looked around, the task of cleaning and repair seemed insurmountable. I must have seemed a little overwhelmed by everything I had seen that morning. Lynda, despite her personal devastation, seemed to notice. She asked, 'Have you seen many houses like this?' I said that I had seen many houses flooded like hers that day and night. Instead of putting herself first she was worried about me. She said, 'It must have been very hard for you to see all these houses and people like this.' I looked around at the destruction of her house and was amazed that even in this situation Lynda was looking from her wheelchair to help others.

I am really pleased to say that Lynda and her family have bounced back and live in a new home a little higher up on the same block. Life for all those affected by the flood will never be same, but they also remember the spirit of Logan that rallied around them in their hour of need. It is this community I am so proud to represent.

This is the spirit of Logan. These are the great people of the electorate that I am so honoured to once again be elected to represent. I pledge to do my best to fight to improve their local services and to get funding for our roads, transport services, schools and health services. I made the same pledge to the people of Logan in 2015 and the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering.

It is important that we do not take our democracy for granted. We recognise that the diggers who stood together at Eureka or the shearers who gathered together under the Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine did so to assert the right of ordinary working people to vote, to protest and to be treated fairly. I wish to recognise Queensland's trade unions, especially the Australian Workers' Union, the Plumbers Union, the Transport Workers Union, the Electrical Trades Union—all the unions in Queensland that fight hard for the workers of Queensland.

They do that in workplaces but they also encourage their members to be active citizens participating in the political process. We hear so often about those on the other side attacking our trade unions, but we do not hear about those dedicated men and women who feel themselves called to take on the tough job of representing their fellow workers, especially the voluntary delegates and those who work to organise and represent workers. They all make a contribution to a better and fairer Queensland.