




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

MOTION

NATURAL DISASTERS

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise to speak to the motion put forward by the Premier. I put on the record my recognition of the fact that the people of North and North-West Queensland have suffered from the catastrophic effects of widespread and devastating flooding, the true ramifications of which will not be determined for quite some time. Those floods will impact on the economies of both the state and the nation and we will all feel it in one way or another, although certainly not to the extent felt by those who have been directly affected.

There are stock losses looming in the hundreds of thousands. Possibly as many as one million animals have perished. The exact figures will never be known. People have lost their loved ones. They have lost their homes and all of their possessions. Businesses are bravely and desperately trying to calculate their losses and are contemplating their future with little or no income stream. There has been major damage to infrastructure, including to roads, bridges, railways and communications.

On behalf of the people of Callide, I most earnestly tell the people of North and North-West Queensland that we feel your pain and we will do whatever we can to help, for we have also experienced times of massive flooding and torrential rain. We saw that in 2010, 2011 and again in 2013 when the Burnett, Dawson and Boyne river systems reached record flood levels and the people of Callide suffered major losses.

We live in a 'sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains'. We have seen these events before and we will see them again. The people of North Queensland are tough and resilient and they will recover, but it will take time. However, it will not be long before we once again see the 'vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended'.

To those suffering I say: I wish I could be in North Queensland to help you and to share your grief, for I am just a Wondoola ringer who made it all the way to parliament. However, I am here in Brisbane, 'sitting in my dingy little office, where a stingy ray of sunlight struggles feebly down between the houses tall'. My heart and my thoughts are with you.