




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Townsville, Floods

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.57 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I am very pleased that you are in the chair as I deliver my speech. This week we have heard you and the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Hinchinbrook speak about the extraordinary rain events in the Townsville region. I have heard heartbreaking stories, both in the chamber and from you personally, about home owners having to throw away their precious possessions, to be left with nothing—nothing but a ruined, sodden house that they may not be able to return to for days, months or, in some cases, ever.

This reminded me of Logan's experience, on a much smaller scale, in March and April 2017. I want to let Townsville people know that, although it seems as if this situation can never be overcome, it can be—step by step. I know that Townsville people are tenacious. I believe that they will get back on their feet. I saw this with Logan families whose houses were decimated.

I would like to share one story with the House and the members representing the Townsville region. I took a break from cleaning one home to check on other areas. I scanned the flood map and drove down a back road into a quiet area of North Maclean. There I discovered one elderly couple, with Lydia in a wheelchair in muddy, sodden ground. The water had completely submerged their better brick house. The level and speed of the water seemed to have cracked the walls. All of their possessions lay in a sodden mess inside the house. The problems seemed insurmountable.

I made calls to the services and the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and they came and began the long task of cleaning and taking things out to a massive pile in front of the house. The officers of the Woodridge fire station—great people—came with their truck and high-powered hoses to clear out the huge amounts of debris and mud. Even Jim Chalmers, the federal member representing the seat to the north, helped out. Lydia kept watch over us all and worried about all of us having to experience what she was experiencing.

Today I want to tell the people of Townsville that last week I visited Lydia and her family and they had moved to a smaller house, but a much more comfortable one, with a ramp for Lydia's wheelchair. She now has a clean, dry and, very importantly, higher home that was safe. Although it seems insurmountable now, I want to tell people about the tenacious spirit of Queenslanders. Townsville looked after Logan in that period and I hope that we and the rest of Queensland look after Townsville in its time of need.