




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Weather Event

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.15 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, 31 October 2020 will be remembered by members in this House as election day, but for many people in my electorate it is also a day they will never forget as we encountered one of the most severe storms the region has ever seen. For those who live in our area, there is a local understanding that most storms usually bypass us. We see the angry, dark clouds but they tend to go around us. However, for those living in Springfield Lakes, parts of Springfield, Greenbank and Boronia Heights, unfortunately, this time it came straight for us. The storm produced hailstones the size of which we had never seen before—not golf balls, but shot-puts, measuring up to 14 centimetres in diameter.

The full devastation of what happened was not understood for many days. Many homes with tiled roofs had the hailstones smash right through, with rain soaking insulation batts resulting in ceilings collapsing. The SES received thousands of calls for assistance that night and in the following days, and power was lost to over 3,000 homes.

What emerged from these devastating storms, however, was an amazing community led recovery effort. I want to place on record just how grateful I am for the remarkable commitment and care shown by so many towards our community. To Ipswich City Council, Mayor Teresa Harding and her team, I thank you for leading the local disaster management team. To the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre, the amazing Bec Andlemac, the staff and the volunteers, I am in awe of the incredible amount of work you all put in. I have always believed in the importance of the centre but never more so than now.

Principal Greg Horrigan of Springfield Lakes State School, who will be retiring at the end of this year, was there every day supporting our local students, many of whom were displaced. My deep thanks and admiration go to our SES volunteers—not only those from South-East Queensland but those from across Queensland, northern New South Wales and South Australia. Working at heights is complex, dangerous work, and the efforts of the SES in tarping and securing hundreds of houses in the space of a week and a half was just incredible.

Thank you also to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Rural Fire Brigades Association and the Queensland police who all played an important role in ensuring the ongoing welfare of our community. To the community recovery team who assisted with our government's hardship grants, the Ipswich department of housing, QSTARS, Energex, Lifeline and the Insurance Council of Australia, thank you for your meaningful and critical support. I also thank our amazing community organisations and churches who all lent a volunteering hand, as well as our fantastic local businesses—many of whom, without being asked, donated meals, goods and services.

We are a strong and resilient community but we are shaken. It will take a long time to recover from this terrible storm, and I will continue to support those who need our help to get back into their homes and back into our community.