



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Jordan Electorate, Weather Event**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.04 pm): This Sunday is the one-year anniversary of the appropriately dubbed Halloween hailstorms that struck on 31 October last year, directly impacting the suburbs of Springfield Lakes, Springfield, Rosewood, Greenbank and Boronia Heights. The Insurance Council of Australia classed the 31 October 2020 event as catastrophic, logging 44,000 claims totalling more than \$1 billion. This anniversary will be a difficult one for many in our community. It has been a very challenging year for so many and I wish to acknowledge this.

The Queensland government, via the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, has been monitoring the progress of reconstruction and recovery through regular three-monthly visits. The QRA conducted door-to-door assessments of reconstruction in February, May and most recently in September 2021. QBCC officers accompanied QRA officers to undertake licensing audits and provide general information on building works to the community. The QRA reports that the operations across Logan and Ipswich have shown improved recovery, with the vast majority of damaged properties either fully repaired or works well underway 12 months after the event. The results of the third assessment identified a total of 292 properties with some degree of damage. This is down from the 2,216 properties the QRA has visited over the three operations. Of the 292 properties that remain damaged, 71 are uninhabitable and 28 remain with tarpaulins on their roofs. Of those 71, work appears underway on 67, or 94 per cent.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, QRA moved swiftly to activate the joint state and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support community recovery and provide assistance for impacted residents. To date more than \$1.5 million in personal hardship assistance payments have been distributed to more than 5,800 residents in the Ipswich and Logan areas. Residents who are not insured or underinsured could also access a number of government grants, and many of these remain open for residents to apply for assistance.

Some residents are still suffering hardship, with repairs to damaged properties being hindered by a shortage of trades and materials. In response we have a working group through the Department of Energy and Public Works continuing to develop solutions to the supply chain issues. Ipswich City Council has also established a Halloween Hailstorm Special Recovery and Reconstruction Taskforce to centralise and coordinate services and community support. I sit on this task force along with the QRA.

There are too many individuals and organisations to thank for not only the initial emergency response but also their support of the ongoing recovery of our communities. Instead, this Saturday 1, along with federal member Milton Dick MP, Ipswich City Council, YMCA, IGA Springfield Lakes and radio station River 94.9, will be hosting a free breakfast for our community. This is about acknowledging the day, recognising all of the amazing community champions who played a role in our recovery and to offer continued support to those in need.