



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 March 2021

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

### **Kingsthorpe, Flood Mitigation; Toowoomba, Quarantine Facility**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.00 pm): Since the 2011 floods the community of Kingsthorpe has been asking the Toowoomba Regional Council to assist them with ongoing storm drainage problems. Of particular concern is the run-off and subsequent inundation of the main street from heavy rain events and the resultant body of water that accumulates around the railway line. Currently there are too few culverts to allow the water to escape, causing flooding and cutting off one side of town from the other. The council has installed an automated 'road flooded' warning sign and lights at the intersection of Gowrie and East streets to warn motorists that the road is flooded.

On several occasions the community has suggested to council that they are located too far away from the flood zone and should be moved closer to King Street as they can be missed if a driver enters the main street between the two sets of warning lights. The installation of those warning lights should be a temporary measure to ensure some degree of safety whilst the bigger issue of the water inundation of Gowrie Street, which is the main thoroughfare, is resolved. The Kingsthorpe community has been told that there are no planned flood mitigation works in the immediate future, so they will just have to put up with it apparently.

The urban stormwater management plan endorsed by council in August 2019 identified key areas of concern along with potential mitigation measures that recognised that ponding occurs in the main street and along the railway line. However, given the constraints, the stormwater management plan was not able to propose any infrastructure improvements to address the ponding in the areas adjacent to the railway line. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is aware of the issue. Clearly the Toowoomba Regional Council is aware of the issue. We need both levels of government to work together to resolve the situation as soon as possible. The patience of the residents has been tested for long enough.

Clive Berghofer is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, long-time resident of Toowoomba and former member of this House. Toowoomba has been his home for 85 years. He was the principal petitioner for a petition to stop the coronavirus quarantine facility in Toowoomba. That petition, with 8,276 signatures, was tabled in the Queensland parliament on Wednesday. That is 8,276 people who have said no. The signatories to the petition fear that the project has the potential to spread the virus into the western corridor of the Darling Downs, south-west areas of Queensland and areas of northern New South Wales where there is no capacity for the specialised health requirements needed if an outbreak occurs. That concern is entirely due to the lack of communication from this government. The Premier needs to listen to those concerns and speak to the residents of the Toowoomba region.