



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

## MOTION

### Queensland Floods

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.08 pm): With over a metre of rain in under a week in parts of our area it was incredible there was not even more destruction. Parts of the Aspley electorate received their annual rainfall average during this very short period. Aspley, Geebung and parts of Carseldine copped it particularly badly.

In relation to the area around Brickfield Road in Aspley, I heard stories from locals about swiftwater rescue crews going up the street like it was a canal. Of course, this area is very close to where, tragically, in December last year a woman lost her life when she was swept away from the Hungry Jack's car park along Little Cabbage Tree Creek.

Long-term residents of Nemira Street in Carseldine that have never flooded before had two feet of water through their lowset houses. Many other parts of the electorate—in fact, all suburbs in our electorate—have sustained damage in one way or another. There was the tragic incident of the Carseldine local being swept away in floodwaters in Fitzgibbon. I express my condolences to the family and friends of all those who have lost their lives during these terrible occurrences.

I thank the efforts of the police, SES and Fire and Emergency Services in preventing more deaths locally. Amidst this, there have been some incredible stories of locals in our community helping each other. Thanks to Aspley 10 Pin Bowl which provided some free vouchers to people who helped each other during the floods. Some of the stories we have heard from there include Michael and Alistair, who saw a call for help on a Facebook community group and went out to drive a lady and her daughter to a safe place when their house started flooding; and Jan and her daughter had flood damage to their own home but selflessly went to help their neighbours in the clean-up, spending hours pulling out damaged contents from their neighbours' houses the next day, piling it up on the sidewalk. There are countless other stories like that across our part of the north side.

Thanks to Carseldine Sushi Train for contacting my office to offer free meals to affected locals. I was very happy to deliver them to Brisbane North Rental Village in addition to some other emergency supplies earlier in the week after the flooding on the Sunday. A big thanks to local organisation Streetlight. Brisbane North Rental Village, also known as Aspley Acres, was heavily affected. Residents were thankful that Streetlight was there on the Sunday night to help them evacuate and to help provide for residents following the flooding. Thanks to Singh Sabha Gurudawara from the member for Sandgate's electorate who helped out with free meals for members of my community as well. The Aspley Hornets saw that the Sandgate Hawks were heavily affected and went and helped out.

Many of our local schools were affected, as were many of our early learning centres. It would probably be quicker to mention those that were not affected. It was very sad to see Goodstart Early Learning Aspley will have to close its doors for many months. With regard to Marchant Park kindy, it was heartbreaking to see the damage it sustained. When you visit the kindy, which I have done twice since the flooding, it is clear that its drainage situation may be able to be resolved in the future. Much

of the flooding there quite clearly came from a stormwater pipe which points directly at the western side of the centre, so I will be strongly advocating for council to fix this issue once and for all for that centre going forward. I visited the Aspley East C&K kindy the day after the flooding. It looked like a river went through there. It was shocking to see the amount of water, but already on the Monday locals were very quickly on to removing the floors and drying out the place as much as they could with the help of a massive team of volunteers.

Now is not the time for finger-pointing, but it was clear from Sunday morning onwards that the demand for sandbags from council was outstripping supply. With only four locations across Brisbane from which to collect sandbags, there was a substantial queue for most of the weekend at the Zillmere depot. I absolutely praise the efforts of the council staff working without rest all weekend of the floods, but they clearly needed more support. When I went down there to check on operations on the Sunday morning, I ended up helping out the member for Lilley, Anika Wells, and the councillor for Deagon, Jared Cassidy, as being the only people there to actually direct traffic to the sandbag depot. It was heartbreaking to see the looks on people's faces when they had to make the decision of whether to go home and bail out the water as best they could or wait in the queue for two hours for sandbags. Of course there were many urgent issues to attend to across the north side and I am not criticising council officers themselves, but it clearly should not be down to the local opposition councillor, the opposition federal member and the neighbouring state MP—myself—to be sorting out access to the council depot.

I do commend council for standing up the Kedron-Wavell evacuation centre very quickly and well done to Kedron-Wavell itself for hosting it. When I visited the centre I was very impressed with the professionalism and care of the staff and community organisations. The state community hubs were stood up very quickly, and thanks to the Zillmere Community Centre for all of the work it will do going forward. Thanks to the road crews in our area who got out there and fixed a number of state roads very quickly. There were some big issues at Gympie Road at Bald Hills Flats. They were remarkably able to fix that within a few days, so thank you to all of those involved.