




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Floods, Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.10 pm): Just over a fortnight ago, a community on the north side came together to help each other out. I was frustrated that, while talking to locals in Carseldine and Aspley in particular, where many homes were completely unlivable due to the one or two feet of water that went through them, I learned that council did not actually nominate these suburbs as affected suburbs in order for them to be eligible for flood assistance, largely through the state's personal hardship grants. I did not make a big political fight about this. I was not taking any cheap shots. I just inquired with council if it could add the affected suburbs of Aspley, Carseldine, Bald Hills, McDowall, ChermSIDE West and Bridgeman Downs. You would think that would have been done quickly. Instead, all I got from council was a defensive letter from the local councillor, which I table.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 March 2022, from the councillor for McDowall Ward, Tracy Davis, to the member for Aspley, Mr Bart Mellish MP, regarding eligibility for state government assistance for flood damage [324](#).

Notably, the letter, after bagging the state and going on a bit, concludes that council could go back and amend its earlier advised suburbs to include all those affected in our area. I do thank the Deputy Premier and Minister Enoch for helping to sort this out at the back end via QRA and the department of communities after council did not initially nominate the suburbs.

My only intention here was to fight for flood-affected locals so they could receive these state emergency hardship grants as soon as possible, and we were successful in getting them. It was very disappointing that all I saw from the LNP council was obfuscation and finger-pointing rather than them wanting to help locals. I do not blame the councillor for McDowall ward—I actually work reasonably well with Tracy at times, as I try to do with all local councillors—but it is clear that someone in the Schrunner LNP administration is playing politics and not giving the right advice to their own councillors. That is disappointing.

It is also very disappointing that, after three days sitting and three question times—there would have been 20 or 30 questions—we did not hear a single question from the opposition about the floods. Many of their communities would have been heavily affected. We did not hear a single question. They did not want to hear any more information from the government about how their residents could get assistance or about how they could recover better—not a single question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MELLISH: There were no further inquiries from the opposition. It is very disappointing. We did hear a question from the Greens about the floods, but we did not hear a single question about the floods in three question times. On a positive note, I commend my colleagues—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Members, I cannot hear what the member for Aspley is saying. I ask everyone to please be silent so that we can get through his speech.

Mr MELLISH: I would like to end on a positive note and congratulate my colleagues nearby who provided flood assistance. The opposition continue to carry on. They should have made more noise in question time and asked about flood issues. Apparently they did not want to hear about that—the worst floods in a generation in many areas. There was not a single question from the opposition. It is beyond disappointing.