



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Maryborough, Flood Barrier**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to talk about the big blue line in Maryborough. No, we are not talking about the LNP, we are talking about the flood barrier that saved the Maryborough CBD. The blue barrier, called a penstock gate, failed in the flood in January which caused flooding in the CBD of Maryborough. We were all apprehensive when the second flood came along. I congratulate the Fraser Coast Regional Council workers, the CEO, the chief engineer and also Brendan who is the head of the local government disaster management committee.

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been advised by the council that there is legal action in relation to that matter and they do not wish to speak about it or have it spoken about.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take advice. I will not take any advice from members. There is no point of order. It is not a criminal matter and there is no civil matter with a jury empanelled.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** That shows how out of touch those opposite are. I congratulate the Fraser Coast Regional Council workers. We were apprehensive as the flood was coming. We did not know how high the mighty Mary River was going to get. The barrier worked a charm. The penstock gate was fixed by a local company, the men and women at the boiler room of Persal. We watched it being fixed up.

It was amazing to watch the Fraser Coast Regional Council put the barrier together, given how quickly the men put it together and the precise location of where they put it to stop the water coming through the CBD. I have to mention that the barrier was funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government not long after we came to power. It was one of the recommendations from the Fraser Coast Regional Council following their study into CBD flooding. We paid for the barrier, working with the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

While I am on my feet, I want to thank the education cohort from St Helens State School, which was badly damaged during the flood event. The children from St Helens school will go to West State School. The St Helens principal, Kim Burns, and all the staff have done an amazing job in making sure that the children's education will not be interrupted. The other day, the education minister, Grace Grace, and I walked through the school, looking at what we can do to lift buildings to make sure that St Helens school will not be flooded again.

This shows us what happens when you do have a flood and the community comes together. The people of Maryborough have been outstanding, working with agencies and the state government. The housing minister spoke in the House today about how we are making sure that people have been relocated and have a roof over their head. People have been working with insurance companies and the Fraser Coast Regional Council. It has been an amazing result from a very resilient community. I thank the Maryborough community and all the volunteers who have made sure that the city got back to normal.