




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

QUEENSLAND FLOODS

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.37 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Premier. Let me begin by offering comfort and ongoing strength to every Queenslanders affected by the devastating floods witnessed across the south-east. Queensland is an incredibly resilient state, but this event pushed us to the brink. My heart is with those who have lost loved ones, their homes and treasured memories, particularly my friends, neighbours and fellow residents in the City of Logan. Through the water, the mud and the loss, we witnessed incredible courage and selflessness. There were some Marsden residents in the community of Logan—men like Fred, who scaled the fence as the floodwaters rose to help his elderly neighbours get upstairs and out of the floodwaters. His swift actions and those of so many Queenslanders like him undoubtedly saved many lives. Our state and our country will always be grateful for that.

It has been heartening to continually hear the sentiment expressed by people throughout the City of Logan in the aftermath of the flood: 'It's been tough for me, but it's been tougher for other people down the street. They are more deserving of help.' This is the big and selfless heart of the City of Logan and the electorate of Woodridge on display to the world. It has been the general approach of people of Logan and across the south-east, with so many residents putting a pause on their own needs to go help their neighbours, community groups or their local sporting and service clubs. There are people like Gayle Rose, from Marsden Scout Group, who I met down at the Scout den. Even though her own house had been flooded, Gayle was down at the den working out a plan to help the group, and the Cubs and the Scouts they do so much great work supporting, to recover from the flooding impact. Then there was Louie Naumovski from the Logan House Fire Support Network. There were no fires, but Louie was there. He was a tower of strength and dug deep, along with so many other people in our city, to help others.

It is hard times like these that remind you how great Queensland really is. These recent storms came roughly a month after another destructive supercell ripped through Logan. On the first day of February my community came face to face with a tornado. Like these most recent floods, the rain was relentless and the wind ferocious. The aftermath saw houses stripped of roofs, huge trees uprooted, powerlines down and school infrastructure destroyed. Again, that is when our city sprung into action, with so many wonderful Woodridge locals starting the clean-up straightaway. Energex and Ergon crews worked around the clock restoring power to households, as they did after the floods. I want to make special mention of Kev Lavender, who led the Energex response across Brisbane south and Logan.

QFES and SES officers also arrived quickly on our streets and then backed up a few short weeks later to assist with the flood response and recovery. I want to recognise the work of Colin Neil OAM and Geoff Townsley from the QFES and Brad Mills, Jim Ferguson, Paul Guy, Trent Becker, Belinda Quail, Shaun Poole and Garlin Needs, among many others, from the SES. Staff at our wonderful local schools

put in a herculean effort following that storm. Woodridge State High School was among the worst hit by those storms, but principal Kathleen Janecek, facilities officer Peter Ridgeway and grounds keeper Brian Ross worked tirelessly to recover. Logan City Special School cleaners Gaye Napier and Maria Tarei—a combined 40 years of experience between them—dug in when it was needed most, and did so with a smile. They all worked late into the night and through the days that followed, removing debris and conducting repairs so our schools were safe when students returned.

Many local businesses have also stood tall in Logan's time of crisis including Vinton Tree Services, Oasis Landscaping and Maas Earthmoving & Home Restorations which carried out significant clearing at Woodridge State High and throughout surrounding areas. A special shout-out to Travis from Maas Earthmoving, son of Woodridge High cleaner Charmaine, who removed the big tree blocking the school's main gate.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the work of Logan City Council Mayor Darren Power, Deputy Mayor Jon Raven, Councillor Teresa Lane and in fact all Logan councillors and council officers. Our Logan community is lucky to have a great local council and they all acted quickly and with compassion in the aftermath of these natural disasters. On social media I pay tribute to my electorate by using the suburb postcode that we are proud of in Woodridge and I use #all4114all and that resonates across our city, because we are all for Logan, we are all for Queensland and we are all for helping each other out through these events and beyond.