




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to support the motion and pay my condolences to those who have passed. There is a saying that without the rain there is no life. In Queensland we know this more than most. For our agriculture, for our drinking water and even for our recreation we need water and a plentiful supply—perhaps too much supply. In our state we know the summer storms. As a kid you would endure a stinking hot day and right around the time you would be walking home from school the storm would come—sometimes with a bit of hail—and cool everything down.

It would seem we no longer know the storms. In 2020 when a massive hail storm ripped through my electorate and the neighbouring Logan electorate, bringing with it hailstones of 14 centimetres and leaving 2,065 homes damaged, we were all stunned by its ferocity. On the evening of 25 February—my husband's birthday, in fact—I was still up late when the mayor of Ipswich rang me at 10.30 pm. Those are the phone calls people dread because they know it is never good news. The mayor provided me with an update from the Ipswich Local Disaster Management Group and advised that they were working with the Red Cross that evening to open an evacuation centre at the Ipswich showgrounds.

Early on Saturday morning, I went out to check on some of the low-lying areas of my electorate, particularly those near Woogaroo Creek. I was also in contact with my Logan councillor Natalie Willcocks as local roads in Greenbank and New Beith were beginning to have water over them leading to potential flooding. The rain was steady on that Saturday but, as the Premier noted, it hovered over the south-east and would not budge. We issued warnings urging our residents to stay home and remain updated on the situation. I want to thank my community who did just that. Very few people were on the roads that Saturday and Sunday, and, as people have said to me, 'We bunkered down.'

As an electorate, we were fairly lucky and my heart goes out to those members whose electorates have been more significantly impacted. We saw limited inundation of homes, though I want to give a special mention to families in Iris Street and Dulin Street, Gailes, who were particularly affected.

The Ipswich part of my electorate fared pretty well with limited road closures or loss of services. The Logan part of the electorate saw significant road closures, loss of electricity and loss of internet for a number of days. Greenbank saw more than 1,300 homes lose power for a number of days with key roads and bridges cut off. I want to give a massive shout-out to our Greenbank Rural Fire Brigade who were out ensuring that road closure signs were up and visible and who also helped with those who found themselves stranded from their homes.

The community of Flagstone was completely cut off for a number of days with no power and no internet which made communication and getting messages out particularly difficult. Neither the local councillor nor I could reach our community there. We relied on some incredible locals to provide us with updates on the situation and what was needed. I am actually going to do a separate adjournment speech to recognise all of those amazing people in Flagstone because they represent the very best of community and I am so grateful to them all.

The Ipswich Motorway separates my electorate from one of the most hard-hit areas of the floods—Goodna. It has been absolutely devastating to see the impact of the floods on some of the most wonderful people you will ever meet. In our patch we are a close-knit group—so I wanted to be there for my colleagues the member for Bundamba, the federal member for Oxley, Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic and Councillor Paul Tully who have such a massive recovery task ahead of them. I have been out helping in some of the more impacted streets—Mill Street, Enid Street, Cox Crescent and the Hillsdon Court townhouses.

I want to thank the council team who helped to set up the recovery centre at Goodna, particularly Margy and Mel. There were a few in council who questioned the need for this centre. I can say without any doubt that it has been vital for this community. I also want to thank our community recovery team who have been doing an incredible job supporting affected residents with financial support. Of course, to all of our emergency services—our police, our fire, our ambulance services—they have been absolutely incredible.

To all of the volunteers, including the massive team from Thiess who just turned up and set up at Goodna—just incredible—the wonderful crew from Goodna Street Life who are always there, the Pioneers Basketball Club, as well as the ADF who have been instrumental in getting the community to a certain level of recovery: I want to thank you as well.

We know the recovery will take some time. We need to continue to be there in the long term. I never thought I would quote Walt Disney, but this is apt. He said, 'After the rain, the sun will reappear. There is life. After the pain, the joy will still be here.' We will help people to find that joy again. I commend the motion to the House.