




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Floods, Flagstone

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (6.03 pm): Whilst my community of Flagstone fortunately did not see inundation of homes, the community was isolated for three days when a section of Teviot Road flooded near the Flagstone Creek. That isolation was compounded by a loss of power for around 520 households as well as a loss of internet, which made communication difficult. With both the local councillor and myself unable to access the community, we were reliant on some of our incredible locals to help us with updates on the situation and what was needed.

Susan Hawke, at the Flagstone community centre, established a drop-in centre where people could recharge devices, have hot showers, a meal and a cuppa. I cannot thank Susan and UnitingCare enough for their invaluable work. I thank Kareen Duncan from Peet. We are so fortunate that Kareen has previously worked for Logan City Council and has been part of the disaster recovery team. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge and was able to help direct coordination efforts in the community.

Dom and Jonathan—two absolute legends—used a dingy to transport people and some supplies over the flooded section of Teviot Road. They helped get police officers over as well as Andy, our local pharmacist at Watson's Pharmacy—who I know lives in the Springfield area—so that he could open his pharmacy for people needing urgent medications. I cannot thank him enough. Jodie, a local paramedic, provided first aid and medical care. Again, a frontline officer stepped up to help our community.

In 2017, when the community was isolated after Cyclone Debbie flooding, there was one food store in Flagstone. Since then we have seen the opening of Coles and Woolworths in the area. Unfortunately, Woolworths was impacted by the loss of power and was unable to open. I am troubled by the fact that a major supermarket did not have access to a proper generator, which would have allowed them to open the store. That is something that I will be raising with them and the local shopping centre. It led to significant food supply shortages that I believe could have been avoided.

Currently Flagstone has only one road in and out: via Homestead Drive and Teviot Road. Since my election in late 2017, I have been strongly advocating for a second access road for the community. Last year I was very pleased that the Palaszczuk government confirmed \$31 million in catalyst funding to extend New Beith Road, providing the community with this much needed second access road. Construction on the road is expected to begin this year. It is a big project and it will not be built overnight, but it is getting built. It is important to understand, however, that even with a second road the amount of flooding experienced in this part of Logan would still have isolated Flagstone.

The lack of preparedness by the Local Disaster Coordination Committee in relation to isolated communities does concern me greatly. I attended a community meeting last week with the Flagstone Community Association. It was a practical and productive meeting. Coincidentally, it was all women at the meeting. We have determined that we will use the recent weather event to develop a strong and

Flagstone-specific emergency plan for the community. This will aid coordination, communication and support for our Flagstone community. I have pledged my commitment and financial support to see this plan developed as quickly as possible.

Finally, I also offer my condolences to the family of Stanley Obi. Along with local neighbours, we gathered on Sunday to remember Stanley. I want to thank those who went to the aid of this family.