




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.32 am): I rise to support the motion. It is important that as elected representatives of the Queensland parliament we acknowledge the significant devastation experienced and the heartache felt by so many Queenslanders during the recent severe weather and flood event, including in my state electorate of Moggill. Local residents have been traumatised. They have experienced property damage, lost their possessions and, in a number of cases, been displaced from their homes and businesses. In six days, more than 792 millimetres of rain fell across Brisbane—more than in 1974. This represents the highest six-day figure ever recorded in Brisbane.

I join with all elected representatives of the Queensland parliament in extending my sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost loved ones in this extensive natural disaster. As traumatic and as heartbreaking as this natural disaster has been, in typical Queensland fashion, local residents and impacted Queenslanders have come together and done an outstanding amount of work to support each other, their neighbours, their families and, in fact, their entire communities.

In my electorate of Moggill, emergency services workers, community volunteers and local residents have all rallied to support each other. I wish to acknowledge and place on record my sincere appreciation to the many local residents of Moggill who worked around the clock to support our community. This includes members of our local Queensland Police Service such as Senior Sergeant Shane Hancock, Senior Constable Chris Tetley, Senior Constable Lachlan Scott-Preimonas, Senior Constable Michelle Schreiber and Constable Belinda O'Brien, as well as volunteer members of the Moggill State Emergency Service unit including Colin Alley, Julie Francis and Mark Kerle. I acknowledge members of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, members of the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade including First Officer Mark Farmer, Brookfield Show Society president Catherine Fullerton, Jaimee Morgenbesser, disaster agency staff of the Brisbane City Council, members of the Queensland Ambulance Service and all emergency services workers and volunteers.

I also acknowledge our outstanding local residents, community organisations and volunteers including Alicia Rossiter of the Kenmore Bears Rugby Club; Dr Cath Hester of the Colleges Crossing Family Practice and her staff; Mike Ballinger and James Robinson; and our local school communities including members of the Mount Crosby State School community, Deputy Principal Corey Ridden and Olivia Laurens of the Mount Crosby State School P&C. There are many others including Dan Hill and Tim Kempton.

I wish to thank my staff in the Moggill electorate office, including Daniel Downes, Gabby Nolan and Amanda Strachan, who worked tirelessly alongside me to support our local residents. I acknowledge Greg Adermann, councillor for the Pullenvale Ward, and Julian Simmonds MP, the federal member for Ryan, and thank them both for the way in which we were able to work collaboratively to respond quickly to the needs of our shared communities. As the state member for Moggill, I worked

vigorously alongside other elected representatives to support and provide assistance to the local residents who needed it. This included helping with the local clean-up recovery efforts, which are still ongoing.

Given the geographical isolation issues that once again affected many suburbs and residents in the electorate of Moggill during the flood, the local situation cannot continue without a comprehensive review of disaster management agency coordination and communication across local, state and federal governments. Comprehensive solutions are needed to address the much needed infrastructure needs. Such infrastructure solutions require cooperation and allocated funding by all three levels of government, particularly the Queensland state government. As a part of the announced reviews by the Brisbane City Council being undertaken by former governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey and the state government review to be undertaken by Inspector-General Emergency Management, Alistair Dawson, a dedicated State Emergency Service unit resource for Karana Downs and Mount Crosby must be delivered. A new Mount Crosby Weir bridge needs to be constructed as a priority; matters pertaining to Colleges Crossing must be examined; and the feasibility of combined Brisbane City Council and state government funding for a full traffic bridge at a suitable location at Bellbowrie must be explored. Specifically, the shared jurisdictional aspects of development planning and approvals via Brisbane City Council and the state government must be reviewed.

There is no doubt that the approval of a petrol station by Brisbane City Council at 2250 Moggill Road is entirely inappropriate, given what we have seen with the recent flood and the real risks of local environmental contamination of Moggill Creek. The Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning should be examining this development application approval and utilising any state legislation or regulatory instruments to intervene to ensure that this development does not proceed.

I will be taking the opportunity provided by the relevant local and state government reviews to formally provide correspondence about a number of matters that must be comprehensively examined and reviewed, including specific infrastructure delivered for local residents of the electorate of Moggill and, more broadly, the western suburbs of Brisbane. There is no doubt that the communication, messaging and resilience of infrastructure needs to be reviewed by the state government.