




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Weather Events; Education Funding; World Teachers' Day; Kenmore State High School

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.55 pm): Local residents, families, businesses and students have been significantly impacted by the recent inundation and closure of Colleges Crossing. Gated dam releases combined with significant in-flows from severe wet weather resulted in this closure and once again highlights the deficient level of local infrastructure not only for residents in the Moggill electorate but in surrounding areas including in the electorate of Ipswich West. Enough is enough. Ongoing, serious questions are being asked about the operation of Seqwater by local residents.

Local residents and businesses do not have to continue to be punished by virtue of their residential, school or business address not only because of the state Labor government's failure to fix Colleges Crossing with an appropriate flood-proof river crossing solution but also Labor's delayed delivery of a new Mount Crosby bridge, not to mention timely repairs to the existing Mount Crosby Weir bridge.

As the state Labor government has repeatedly warned, the severe wet weather events experienced again are only the start of this La Nina season with more severe weather anticipated over the coming months. Just as local residents continue to follow the advice of QFES, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, to get ready and prepare for this storm season, there can be no excuse from any level of government or responsible disaster management agency not only to be ready to respond immediately, communicate clearly and accurately and provide prompt support to local residents over the coming months and year ahead but also in terms of the local and state government reviews and recommendations released this year.

On a separate issue, as the LNP shadow minister for education I continue to be contacted by Queensland families and kindergartens kept in the dark by the state Labor government's proposed new funding model for 2023. The new kindergarten funding model was first announced by the state Labor government in February this year. Families and kindergartens need certainty. They need to be able to plan, to budget and to calculate costs. The Labor state government's failure to prioritise significant and meaningful investment in our state's kindergartens and early childhood education sector will undoubtedly have implications on broader, long-term educational outcomes. We know that New South Wales and Victoria have already announced multi-billion dollar investments in early childhood education.

In concluding, I take this opportunity to wish all of our state's hardworking and dedicated teachers, especially those in the schools in the electorate of Moggill, a very happy World Teachers' Day which is being celebrated across Queensland tomorrow. I know the members for Currumbin and Toowoomba South will be celebrating with their schools.

Finally, it will be a pleasure to host, at the Queensland parliament later this evening, Acting Executive Principal of Kenmore State High School, Sally Hawkes, as well as outgoing school captains Kate Tarvit and Ben Waldeck and vice-captains Bella Susanto and Philip Tomane. On an annual basis, I host the student school leaders of Kenmore State High School to thank them for their service and outstanding leadership. Again, these students have been a credit to themselves, to their school communities and to the broader community. I thank them for their commitment.