




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.54 pm): I rise to pay tribute to those Queensland families who lost people in this event, those Queensland households who lost most of the things in their house and all the volunteers and workers who did or are doing so much to help with the recovery. Queensland shows the rest of Australia how to do these things. We lead the way.

When I talk about Major Street in Deception Bay and floods, this is what I want people to remember. This is a street in Deception Bay that keeps going under—2011, 2015 and 2022. In 2015 and 2022 we saw the same thing—24 houses go under within about an hour. That includes some houses in Samantha Court, Delven Court and Embassy Street as well. Walking along this street after the flood it was like I was back in 2015. I was looking at the same houses with their furniture out the front and council skips out the front. People were washing down their houses. The people in the same houses were already stripping the gyprock off the walls, hosing their houses out and preparing for the rebuild. It is *deja vu*.

One of the couples I spoke to told me—and this is interesting—that the insurance company wants to pay them out for their house and pay them for the demolition of their house. It is not going to pay for a rebuild of their house. They will be left with a vacant block of land. I do not know what we are going to do to help them out with that. That is something new this year.

The McGahey Street part of this area was even worse. The Northshore Pet Resort has completely gone under this time. In 2015 it only partially went under. They rebuilt and built new buildings and everything went completely under. I spoke to a gentleman in one house and he told me he pays \$27,000 a year in insurance. This is the sixth or eighth time his property has flooded. It keeps repeating. My people are resilient, but they do have their limits. They are reacting by moving out. They are under incredible stress. Every time it rains they are incredibly stressed and some of them panic.

I cannot keep going back there every five years to offer my comfort to these people time and time again. We need action in this particular location. That is why I welcomed what the Deputy Premier said recently about possible future mitigation works. He canvassed a range of options such as levees, stormwater improvements, higher rebuilds and resumptions if necessary. I table that article from the *Brisbane Times*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 9 March 2022, titled 'Qld slams Commonwealth disaster relief, considers buying flood-prone homes' [305](#).

It was heartening to hear that. I was chasing these things up in 2015 after the flood event at Major Street. We looked at works under the state resilience fund that we had back then. I worked with the council to investigate different options for works that could be done. I promoted the Brisbane City Council's resilience scheme to the council—that is, how to make your house more resilient. I commend that scheme to members.

It is very clear that the time for options has now come. I will keep on pushing for them. We need the federal government to open their \$4 billion resilience fund. It is absolutely crucial. What we have learned is that the only way we can do this is by the three levels of government working together.

I say that because we have an example in my area. At Dale Street, Burpengary, 10 years ago we built a levee system. There was some buyback, basins were created and walls were created. Three levels of government funded this. It cost \$7 million back then. We saw that it worked this year. The flooding did not come up through the levees. There was a little flooding that came from the other streets. It is a template in terms of how we can do these works and help create safer communities. I remember being with Minister Ryan in Dale Street in 2011 and literally taking people's whitegoods up from downstairs and putting them on their verandas. We were soaked to the bone for a day doing that.

I want to thank all those involved with the Queensland government response. They were outstanding. I met them when I walked up and down Major Street on three different days. The people from QBuild were out looking at how to rebuild the houses. The community response team was there. The SES was there. The council was there. We had a range of ministers who came out. I thank the Deputy Premier for coming down to Dale Street and chatting with people. I commend what we have done.