




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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ADJOURNMENT

Southern Downs Electorate, Inglewood Floods

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.03 pm): We have been talking about floods today and I was impressed to hear the contributions by members on all sides about the floods which have affected parts of Queensland. I thought I might take an opportunity during the adjournment to inform the House of the flooding which occurred in Inglewood late last year. I am sure the House would pardon me for having left the sitting early that week to try to get to my electorate and visit the people of Inglewood who had been affected by floods. Inglewood is on the confluence of a brook and a creek and if they both flood at the same time then the town becomes inundated. Unfortunately, on the night of 30 November and 1 December, that is what happened and there was only a relatively small amount of notice that that was going to happen. The Goondiwindi Regional Council and the mayor, Lawrence Springwood, and his councillors did a great job in organising and leading the emergency response there.

I was not able to get to the town until 2 December because it was completely isolated. When I got there, I was amazed and delighted to see that the community—like so many others around the state in recent times—had pulled together. Strangers were there to help people out. It was mostly the main street in the town of Inglewood which was affected. Small businesses were inundated and many of them lost stock and trade and suffered damage to their buildings. I think in particular of Trish, who is a well-loved shopfront operator who runs the newsagent in Inglewood. She had her shop inundated and because her living quarters were at the back of the shop she also had her own home inundated. I take my hat off to the courage and the grit that she showed to get her business up and running to serve the community again as soon as possible.

I was very pleased to bring the opposition leader and the shadow minister for local government, disaster recovery and volunteers to Inglewood to meet people and see what had happened there. One thing that was clear to us was that people had volunteered en masse to pull the community together—particularly SES and rural fire brigade volunteers who had come from far and wide. I spoke to people who had come from Jondaryan, Dalby and so forth and that was wonderful to see.

There is a need for better flood management for Inglewood, including a better place for an evacuation site, because the evacuation site itself was very nearly inundated, as well as other measures which may protect the town and its folk in future. I know that the Goondiwindi Regional Council is going to lead on this. I would ask the state government to please give the Goondiwindi Regional Council every possible assistance and funding to assist them with that very good work. I take my hat off to the people of Inglewood. I will be taking the shadow minister for small business and training, Brent Mickelberg, to Inglewood in the coming weeks to introduce him to some of the businesses.