



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

## MOTION

### Queensland Floods

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 am): We saw an enormous amount of rain in areas across Queensland, including in Kawana. Although we had localised flooding of some roads, with damage to houses and schools due to the amount of rain, nothing compares to what we saw in other areas across Queensland.

I bring to the attention of the House the areas of Meridon Plains and Kawana Forest. I have recently written to Minister Mark Bailey about the issue of Kawana Forest becoming an island. The only way in and out was flooded. The roads were cut down Woodlands Boulevard onto Kawana Way Link Road and Kawana Motorway up to the hospital. Kawana Way Link Road was nearly going under. It is a state road. The only other available emergency access is out Red Cedar Drive, through a gate, through a car park and onto Meridon Way, which also went under. Even if they were going to sandbag their communities, they could not get out to get sandbags.

I have written to Mark Bailey on behalf of the Kawana Forest residents and acknowledge the efforts of the Kawana Forest Residents' Association in writing to me about this. We need to work out how we are going to flood-proof Kawana Forest and Meridon Plains so we do not have issues in the future. I thank the Kawana Chamber of Commerce for the recent Clean Up Australia Day. A lot of the debris that went out the Brisbane River, particularly microplastics, have ended up as far as Fraser Island. All the Kawana beaches were impacted so we had a huge clean-up day.

I was in the chamber when the Treasurer was speaking about how hard these recent floods were on him. I am not going to cop that from Treasurer Cameron Dick, who was in Dubai when Queensland was flooding. When Queenslanders and his community were in their hour of need he was in Dubai. Dubai is about a 14-hour flight. He could have come back. I know a few members were stuck at Parliament House. We were desperate to get back to our communities. We were looking for back roads through the hills in the hinterland to get back to our communities. The Treasurer had the choice to get on a plane and come back but he chose to stay nearly the entire week when Queensland had flooded and the mud armies had mobilised.

Today Treasurer Dick said in a ministerial statement how wonderful it was and how much he achieved in the trade delegation. Yesterday I tabled happy selfies that were taken by Trade and Investment Queensland. While Queensland flooded and the mud armies were out in force, Treasurer Dick was getting selfies with big koala mascots. I warned the House. I said I bet Treasurer Dick will make sure those photos are non-existent. Guess what? Trade and Investment Queensland has taken down all the photos containing Treasurer Cameron Dick. I table the new, edited photos. I also table the screenshots where you can see the edits that were made.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Trade and Investment Queensland page, dated 1 March 2022 [297](#).

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Trade and Investment Queensland page, dated 8 March 2022 [298](#).

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Trade and Investment Queensland page, dated 10 March 2022 [299](#).

It shows that all the photos containing Treasurer Dick have vanished from the Facebook and Instagram accounts—they are just gone. I said he would have been annoyed that we caught him doing selfies in Dubai while his flooded communities were recovering. To come in here today and try to play the victim and say how hard it was when he was sipping champagne in Dubai while Queensland flooded—I am not going to cop it from Treasurer Dick—pretending that he was here helping clean up. His Facebook had posts about the floods. His community suffered its worst flood for 40 years and he chose to stay in Dubai and not come home. It is a 14-hour flight. Any of the LNP members, and I suspect probably all of the Labor members other than Treasurer Dick, would have got on a flight back to be with their community, but he could not do it.

Who could forget the chaos with the schools and parents going to pick up their kids? I have been told by principals that they were getting told by students, because they saw it on social media first, that their schools were closing and their parents were on their way to pick them up. Principals and teachers did not know from the minister or the Department of Education that their schools were being closed. They were closed and the sun was out. Surely we are not getting to a situation in Queensland where, when BOM issue a severe weather warning—which we know they do every second day—that we close our schools. Principals and the community should make the decision. There is no use closing a school at the Gold Coast because Gympie is having a bit of rain. We need to be resilient in the future. I congratulate all the people who assisted people clean up their communities—other than Cameron Dick.