




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.14 pm): As the Deputy Premier acknowledged this morning, Oxley is one of the worst affected suburbs in South-East Queensland. Some people in my community have lost everything but, of course, that pales in comparison to the loss of life. I join with my community and this entire House in mourning the loss of 13 Queenslanders. It is a tragedy that those lives have been cut short.

In my humble opinion, Oxley is the exemplar model for natural disaster recovery. Over the past few weeks, as I walked each street and spoke to locals, it seemed like the half of Oxley that had flooded was being helped by the half that had not. That occurred in tandem with our amazing public services, which I will touch on later. I know that I have yet to truly uncover the magnitude of people in my community who helped with that flood recovery, but I will name just a few: Lou Bromley; Mikayla and Warwick Leese; Shelby and Kylie Robinson; the Tovey family; Anita Dale and her husband, the 'mayor of Oxley'; and Mickey Lou who looked after Corinda Chase. However, I thank those individuals knowing that there are hundreds more I have not and cannot mention because there were hundreds, if not thousands, of acts of everyday heroism that happened in my community and right across Queensland.

There are literally thousands of locals who played an integral role in our local clean-up. Hundreds of Oxley and Corinda locals were displaced but only 30 ended up at our local Riverlife evacuation centre. That means that hundreds of Oxley locals were able to find a place to stay with their neighbours and friends who opened their hearts and their homes and gave them a place to stay. I thank Riverlife Church for opening their own evacuation or refuge centre, giving residents safe harbour when they needed it. Thanks will never be enough for that amazing church, which stepped in when they saw a need. Thanks also goes to Gary at the Corinda Bowls Club for providing a safe place for people to go, until the bowls club lost power. Our school communities with impacted families are doing wonderful work as we speak. The Oxley Uniting Church and Reverend Dave stepped up to provide a haven for Oxley in a very big way, providing a real communal point.

Every single day the Hare Krishnas and the Sikhs in our community cooked hundreds of hot meals so that the people of Oxley were fed during the clean-up. One of my favourite memories was helping the Hare Krishnas set up their food tent on Lawson Street. I was not sure if people would come to get food, but within five minutes every pine sleeper in Ed Keupper Park had a family perched on it, eating a hot lunch and talking with their neighbours. It made me a little weepy to see my community coming together in that way as it was really ground zero in terms of the flood impacts on our community. The Hare Krishnas were out again the next day, feeding everyone. Givit have done a fantastic job in coordinating what people need. In our community we are lucky to be home to an organisation called Baby Give Back. They organise everything that a baby could need from cots to nappies, formula—you name it—from their warehouse in Sumner.

I thank all the hardworking public servants. Our heroes in Energex were the most popular people and daily sightings of the Energex trucks were a topic of conversation. Whenever I went on my street walks, I would come across crews working to restore power. I remember one stinking hot Sunday I stopped for a chat. There were about 10 workers restoring power to a part of the electorate that had been flooded. One of the fellows, Dave, showed me the actual work that they do. It is a lot. They are legends in high vis. The police were out in droves, roaming the streets on horseback and providing a reassuring visual presence and moral support to locals who were disturbed by people roaming the streets and going through items not only on the kerb but also inside yards and homes. QFES and SES teams went door to door to speak with and evacuate people. They were absolutely sensational in my community—just sensational.

Now that the floodwaters have receded, the department of communities is located in the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre working alongside the Red Cross, the Salvos and more to provide that one-stop shop in getting people back on their feet. A number of my sports clubs and community groups were impacted: the Oxley Bowls Club, Sherwood Meals on Wheels, Jindalee Bowls Club, Centenary Meals on Wheels, the Centenary RSL, the Jindalee Jags, Little A's and Netball Club, Centenary Rowing and the Jindalee Swimming Pool. Each has done a mighty job in recovery and clean-up.

Finally, I say to my community that recovery is a marathon and not a sprint. There are so many people here, ready and willing to help you when you need it. Everyone's recovery journey looks different and you all need different things. Whatever it is you need, we are here. We are not going anywhere and we want to help.