




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.28 pm): I would like to start by putting on record my condolences to the family and friends of Peter Thomas who was the gentleman who died in Stones Corner. It is a place in my electorate where many people live, work and play, where they walk their dog and watch the footy. It is sad when it becomes a place of tragedy for families. I would also like to put on record my condolences to the family and friends of Merryl Dray, someone who was serving the community very selflessly and I put on record my condolences for all the other people who have perished in these floods.

My electorate was not significantly affected. Gladstone Street, Jellicoe Street, Adina Street and Milsom Street flood regularly. They flooded in 2011, 2015, 2017 and now this year as well. As other people have spoken about, the flooding was worse in some areas and not as bad in other areas, but I do not think people care about comparisons when they have water washing through their house, robbing them of their memories and possessions.

In the area of Stones Corner many businesses were directly impacted. The iconic Doll and Teddy Hospital went under but I was very pleased to see that it was very quickly back up and operational. We put out a call to the community and the community showed up to help that small business get back on its feet. It has been there for a long time and it will be there for a long time to come. The speed with which people responded to that call for help is really a testament to the people of Queensland. People do not sit around waiting to be shuffled around the place and told how to help; they just find ways to help each other. It was great to see how many people contacted my electorate office. The majority of people in my electorate were not affected directly but they wanted to play some role in assisting people in other communities. People do not see our electorate boundaries. They do not see Yeronga or Bulimba and think of different electorates. They just see people who are doing it tough on the south side of Brisbane and they want to help out.

I mentioned Adina Street and Milsom Street. I genuinely believe that there are things that council could do to stop houses in those streets from flooding over and over again. As I have said, they have flooded multiple times over the past 10 years that I am aware of. I think there are fixes that could be put in place. The flooding that happens on Gladstone Street and around the back of Stones Corner is really difficult to stop, but the flooding on Adina Street and Milsom Street, in particular, could be rectified. On Gladstone and Jellicoe streets the houses have been there for a long time. The people who live there are well used to flooding and the houses are designed around it. However, there is an argument, in those areas and in other areas that I have seen around Brisbane, for us to really think through some sort of a buyback scheme because there are houses that we will never be able to protect from flooding. I found myself and my good friend Matthew Campbell with a few hours to spare on a Friday afternoon so we rang Minister Bailey and asked if he needed a hand. He directed us to Rocklea. I have to say that things were pretty shocking over there. Some people will choose to continue to live in those areas, but if there were a buyback scheme others might choose to get out.

It is really telling in my electorate because, with some of the houses that flood repeatedly, people may go through one or two floods but then they will sell the property. I have been back to those houses four or five times and every time I do there is a new resident who has been told by a real estate agent, 'This doesn't flood. There are no problems here. It's on a flood map, mate, but don't worry about it. It won't flood. It's one in 100 years.' I can understand why the owners want to offload the property, but we have to give them another option.

I acknowledge Terri Butler and the work that she does in our local community. She rolled up her sleeves and worked right across the electorate of Griffith.

I do not have time to respond to the nonsense from the Greens. Their amendment was about a Facebook post. The reality is that the Palaszczuk Labor government acknowledges that climate change is real and we are taking real action on it. Just today there was the announcement around electric vehicles. That is what a real government does. That is how you really tackle climate change—not through nonsense around Facebook, as they are trying to do.