




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to support the motion. I too place on the record my sincere condolences, on behalf of myself and my community, to the family and friends who have lost their loved ones, to those who have lost their homes and to those who have lost their cherished belongings. Who would have thought that 10 years on we would be seeing a repeat of the 2011 floods. It was said earlier that this rain event broke a 130-year-record. It was like nothing I have ever seen before. I have lived in my home in Thornlands for 30 years and I can honestly say that I have never seen such a deluge in all my life. The rain was coming down from every direction. I know that it has had a huge effect. By and large the Redlands Coast and the bay were lucky.

An opposition member: How did Billy go?

Ms RICHARDS: Billy was okay. Houses are not being built behind his place so Billy was alright. We seem to cop it from every direction. I thank all of our community volunteers who pitched in and helped where there was damage in our areas and offered to help in other areas. In tough times we see our communities shine. We see that across Queensland when we experience these severe weather events.

I thank our SES led by Clare Barker. The Redland Bay SES is highly awarded in the state. They do an amazing job. They are our orange angels on the ground who make sure they are protecting our community in so many different ways. I also thank the Redland City Council crews. A particular shout-out to Pat and the boys who were lifting very heavy sandbags in really unpleasant conditions. They did a fantastic job.

I also thank our Coast Guard. I sat in on a session with them as they were planning their trip out to secure debris that was coming out of the mouth of the Logan River into our bay. They continued that work up into the Brisbane River. They are out in the bay cleaning up the debris that is floating out there at the moment. I thank both the Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue for all of their work, as well as Maritime Safety Queensland. I think in a really coordinated way they have done a fantastic job to make sure that we are keeping our waterways safe for boaties and trying to clean up what was a massive disaster.

Throughout the flood event there was a loss of power across our islands. I thank our Energex crews who worked tirelessly to restore it. They did a fantastic job mobilising quickly over the course of the weekend to restore power to homes. I am a proud member of the ETU and their Operation Energise again came to the fore. Keith 'Macca' MacKenzie did a great job in coordinating this effort. They have crews out at the moment across Gympie, Bundamba and Goodna helping people restore power to their homes, doing safety checks and supporting community groups and not-for-profits. They really do a fantastic job in helping Queenslanders in their time of need. Thank you to Macca for all of his work.

I thank our sporting groups. The member for Capalaba and myself went out to the Capalaba Warriors and helped them clean up. I do not think they had ever seen a flood event like this, nor had the Capalaba Greyhounds. We found a carp on the middle of the rugby field. There were incredible things left after the floods. I also went out to Crestline Equestrian Centre, Julieanne Broadbent's facility. They were extraordinarily badly hit. Many local businesses came down to support and help, whether with equipment, food or relocating the horses. A shout-out to my friends Elka, Anthony and Jason. On the Sunday we did a big sweep of all the paddocks to clear up a lot of debris.

I also thank Minister Enoch for establishing a community recovery centre. A shout-out to Carol and Jill who are working there. I got to meet them on Sunday and watch their briefing session. Red Cross, Lifeline, housing and community services are out there. Residents from Birkdale, which is in the northern end of the Redlands local government area, had their homes badly affected and were being helped out with the grant application processes. It was great to see.

I also had the opportunity to have a briefing from the QRA. I commend them on the great work that they did in the 2011 floods in building back better. I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Cox Architecture, the firm that designed the ferry terminals on the Brisbane River. The design did exactly what it was meant to do with the pontoons swinging on a pivot. I know that QRA will continue to look at how we build back our communities better and stronger to be more resilient going forward. I think there is a lot of work our local governments, with the state government, need to do in terms of reviewing and assessing flood levels and what that means for local planning schemes. I look forward to seeing that good piece of work done so that we continue to build back better and be more resilient. As the member for Bonney said, we will continue to see this and we want to make sure we build back better.