




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Floods, Bundamba Electorate

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.31 pm): Determination, resilience, mateship—these are the foundations of our local Bundamba community. They remain unbreakable in the aftermath of the recent floods that have rocked our local community and much of South-East Queensland. Our homes, businesses, sports clubs and community groups have once again been inundated by floodwaters and we are responding the best way we know how—by standing side by side, supporting each other and going forward together.

The floods have been devastating and the impacts have been felt right across our community. They will continue to reverberate for a long time to come. Homes and businesses in Goodna, particularly along Woogaroo Creek where it meets the Brisbane River, were completely inundated. Access points to the Ipswich Motorway were under water. Homes and businesses along Mill, Parker and Enid streets and Cox and Spalding crescents went under. Businesses on the northern side of Smiths Road also went under. It was the same story in Bundamba along Bundamba Creek, where homes and businesses in and around Mining Street, Bergins Hill Road and Thomas, Hanlon, Hart and Egerton streets were impacted. Residents in Riverview were affected, cut off by floodwaters from Six Mile Creek. Impacts were also felt in Blackstone and Dinmore. All parts of our community have been affected by this terrible extreme weather event.

I have been out on the ground supporting our flood-affected areas over the last two weeks helping with the clean-up and recovery and helping community members as they work to salvage what they can. It is impossible to truly convey the devastation in words. People have lost their homes; they have lost their livelihoods; all of their worldly possessions and precious memories lost to floodwaters, sitting in a pile on the sidewalk until a rubbish truck comes to collect them. Then begins the process of starting again. It is deeply traumatic, and for some in our community it is not the first time it has happened.

We will not let this keep us down. We are getting back up and we are getting on with the job. Even in the short time since the flood it has been a privilege to share some touching, extremely personal heartbreaking moments and amazing examples of courage and determination. Wingy, Sarah, Joselin, John, Lois and Tanya at Goodna; Greg, Karen, Glenn, Jill and Scott at Bundamba; Western Pride Football Club, Ipswich Men's Shed at Bundamba, Goodna Street Life, Goodna Netball Association, Little Athletics, Ipswich Knights Soccer Club and Goodna Services Club are just some of our locals and community groups who have been impacted.

Yet through the devastation and despair, no matter how bad it was there was one prevailing message: 'I'll be right. There's plenty worse off than me.' Never was there a clearer example of selfless community spirit and concern for others. The response from our local communities to support and assist those who need help has been nothing short of magnificent. Hundreds from near and far heeded the call to help. They joined our incredible emergency service responders, power workers, rescue personnel

and volunteers to lend a hand in the darkest hours—in some cases, literally. Volunteers from the Electrical Trade Union's Operation Energise are out in our community right now performing free electrical safety checks to restore power for flood victims.

I would like to thank every single community volunteer, firefighter, rural fire, SES orange angel, police officer, frontline energy worker and incredible Australian Defence Force personnel for the work they have done to date and the work they will continue to do.

We are committed to getting people, businesses and community organisations back on their feet as soon as possible. The recent appointment of a dedicated recovery coordinator will help ensure we continue to receive the on-the-ground support our community needs going forward. Our hardworking and dedicated community recovery workers have been on the ground to help individuals and families access financial assistance and the support services they need to assist with their recovery along with food, water, cleaning products and volunteers.

Mostly, though, I want to pay tribute to our local community—our residents, businesses and community groups—because it is thanks to their grit and resolve that shock has given way to hope for the future. Despair has been replaced by determination and steadfast resolve. While we have started our first steps towards recovery there is a long, tough road ahead, but we will walk that road together.