




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Flood Mitigation

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.02 pm): During the February-March floods, homes around the M1 construction in the Tallebudgera Creek catchment area and throughout Elanora flooded at levels never seen before. It caught locals by surprise, and they never want to experience this again. The message the member for Burleigh and I heard from our community is clear. Leo said to us—

We have lived on Nineteenth Avenue in Elanora for 22 years ... but never has our house been affected until now. We don't know how we were flooded when we have experienced more rain in the past. Does the M1 upgrade have anything to do with it?

Michele said—

We have lived in our current home for 32 years ... and have never experienced anything even close to this before. If the cause isn't addressed, then we live with the possibility it will happen again.

Locals are pointing to the existing box culvert drains being filled with M1 construction rubble, to the Tallebudgera Creek being narrowed to construct the bridge as part of the M1 upgrade, to the spillway being obstructed by construction material and to the western side of the M1 being raised as part of the upgrade causing a dam wall. Locals are pointing to all of these as factors that may have caused or magnified the flooding of their homes—homes which have never flooded like this before.

There is a precedent for state construction works being at fault for flooding. In March 2010 a Brisbane City Council report into the devastating 2009 floods was released. It revealed that construction on the Clem7 tunnel caused the 2009 floods to be eight centimetres higher in Breakfast Creek suburbs. We are experiencing more rain, and our community deserves answers. Locals are scared that if action is not taken to properly look at the causes the flooding will happen again.

The member for Burleigh and I have held town hall forums, asked questions on notice and written to the minister, but are yet to see any action. My community has asked for the hydraulic report pre construction and during the construction phase but have been told it is commercial-in-confidence and will not be released. Our residents have written, emailed and called the offices of the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads begging for a meeting. The Premier referred them to the minister, and the Minister for Main Roads has flat-out refused to meet with them. The minister has stated in correspondence to me that analysis, including by hydraulic specialists, is underway, but he has failed to provide the scope of this analysis, failed to provide any indication about when we will see it and failed to commit to making it public.

My community is demanding that the state government makes an independent analysis and that that analysis specifically determines if the M1 construction caused or magnified the flooding of their homes. They want the state government to show some leadership in this and investigate so that any faults can be mitigated, because unless this is investigated properly the fault cannot be determined or mitigated and these homes stand at risk of flooding again when they have never flooded like this before.

Our community deserves to feel safe in their homes and deserves to have this state government listen to them. Give us an independent report and make it certain to determine whether or not the M1 roadworks are at fault.