




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.49 pm): We have heard so much in the House. I want to paint a picture for the House about what it is like for those who experienced the flooding in Logan both in 2017 and this year. Walking and cutting across a paddock that I have never crossed before as the street that I would normally drive up was underwater, with the water going halfway up the street signs, I saw bemused horses looking at me.

I went up the street to a home that I knew had flooded in 2017. Already, I could see through the carport the brown water of Norris Creek and the Logan River beginning to lap at the back door of this home. The police minister knows this house well. It is one of the homes he helped out with in 2017. I yelled out to the couple living in the house. The lady came out and she saw and recognised me from 2017. I came up to the carport and I could see the water behind her lapping at the back door of her house. It was already 20 metres up from the Logan River. As she moved up the driveway, in her typical laconic style, she said to me, 'Linus, we have to stop meeting here like this.'

Faced with a flood you can either laugh or cry. In the last couple of weeks, Logan residents have done their fair share of both. I recognise those residents who have been flooded more than once. I do not want to be political about this. I think some of the things that those on other side of the House have done—that is, repeat talking points—in the face of such a tragedy is not the way to go.

We have seen people insult people like this, saying that they are tree changers making a choice to live in danger. I notice the member for Waterford is in the chamber. We know that these people in Logan are hardworking people who have limited choices about their housing. At worst, we see people who are passionate about horses making that choice and not having the economic means to live in other areas. I recognise that the people facing these situations often have limited choices. They are great people who deserve our respect, our help and our support in getting through what they have faced.

In that same street I helped a family rip up the floorboards they had recently installed over the top of the older floorboards. It was the house where I did the very same thing in 2017.

I want to talk about a group in North Maclean doing disability relief and all the things they had built up to provide relief to those with a disability who had lost things. I want to talk about people like Josip and Kathy, who had not been flooded before and were deeply shocked and hurt by the flood that came through their house. I want to talk about people like Louie Naumovski, who did such extraordinary things as in the middle of the night rescuing Shetland ponies. That is amongst the other amazing things he did.

I want to talk about the family who had to leave—and this may sound extreme—but said that they could not catch the llamas in the paddock. Their neighbours—I imagine they were not experienced llama wranglers—took the llamas into a safer paddock. I do not think the llamas appreciated it, but I know the owners did. I want to talk about the people in Chambers Flat who run a dog rescue home. They have huge fluffy dogs that others have abandoned. They had lost their way to care for them.

There are many stories of people who have done so much good. I want to talk about the Vietnamese farmers on Chambers Flat Road who produce a crop for our markets and had all of that flooded and lost. These are people who are worthy of support. These are hardworking Logan people. These are people that this House should recognise.

I especially want to recognise the work of the SES, the RFS, David Heck, who ran the RFS coordination centre, and the Logan City Council—people like Darren Power, Teresa Lane, Jon Raven, Laurie Koranski and Scott Bannan, who did a fantastic fundraiser recently at the Mustangs. I know that Mr Deputy Speaker Krause gave a donation to that. I want to thank the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, the football teams, the charity groups and Pastor Mike from the Parklands Christian College. I want to thank the RoadTek workers from TMR and the ministers. RoadTek did a fantastic job opening up the Mount Lindesay Highway. There are so many people to thank who have worked to help those in the community of Logan.