




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.43 pm): I, too, would like to give my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives, especially the Dray family and the Lowood SES. As a former member of the SES in Logan for many years, I know that those individuals give so much and ask for so little. They certainly are heroes. I commend them for the wonderful work they do and the hours they volunteer.

While the electorate of Theodore escaped major inundation, for a very brief period the Coomera River made it to moderate flood level. Many residents participated in any way they could to help out victims in other areas. My local rural fire brigades actively went out into flood-affected areas and gave up their time—and were very proud to do so. I acknowledge their efforts. My local businesses acted as collection points and handed on much needed goods to those areas affected by floods. I give a shout-out to one of my local cafes, Cafe Tahbella, for its efforts and to the chaplain from Helensvale State School, Ben Findley. Ben did some runs to New South Wales to take down much needed goods to help out flood-affected individuals around Murwillumbah. Paragraph 5 of the motion states—

5. commits to working with all Queenslanders and affected communities to ensure that Queensland recovers from these natural disasters and rebuilds better than ever.

In 2017, the connection road to the infamous John Muntz Bridge washed away. Main Roads quite quickly restored the connection road so that traffic could use that very important arterial link. How important is that arterial link? As reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* recently, some 15,000 cars use it daily. It is the main thoroughfare for Upper Coomera, Oxenford and all the way up to Mount Tamborine. That road is the lifeblood of Mount Tamborine. Every time that road is knocked out of action, it causes absolute chaos for motorists in that area. Let us be clear: the road is so important that the last time it was knocked out of action it took people 40 minutes to take their children from Maudsland to Highland Reserve State School. Normally that trip would take around five minutes. It shows that that road is so crucial to that area.

I will table some images of the riverbank. In 2017 they did the original works to fix the connection road. They did some additional works for the abutment but no works to the riverbank. I table the image of the original works.

Fast-forward to February 2020. We had another flood event which resulted in the erosion of many more metres of riverbank. I table an image along with an image of the 2022 flood event. That shows a bit more clearly how much land was washed away.

Fast-forward to 2021. We had another flood event. It scoured even more land from the riverbank upstream of the John Muntz Bridge. I table that image.

We come to March this year. As I said, the floodwaters rose to a moderate level for a very short period of time. It tended to stay a minor flood, yet the amount of land again scoured away from that riverbank was phenomenal. We lost around 12 metres in just this flood alone. I will table that picture along with a picture showing fences actually going into the river.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting flooding [304](#).

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