



Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.03 pm): I rise to support the motion. In doing so, I acknowledge the lives lost. My thoughts are with the families of those individuals. I also acknowledge our emergency services crews right across the state, particularly in the south-east. Many pockets of the Coomera electorate, particularly the northern end, were impacted by these floods, as they were in 2017. In fact, they were impacted far more devastatingly in 2017 compared to today. The rural communities are the usual suspects. The canelands, of course, is a very low-lying area and quite a bit of that was impacted with roads being cut, which caused more pressure on other road services. The Cedar Creek area is also a usual suspect, being located along the beautiful Albert River. The Albert River is prone to flooding and that impacts major roads which are cut off, forcing traffic into other areas.

The big issue is the massive traffic jams that occur due to the floods. All of that traffic is funnelled into other areas. Sadly, most of that is often forced on to the M1 somehow or other. For instance, some are forced to travel further down the coast and then back on to the M1 to try to travel north. When there are accidents, as occurred during the peak of the floods, that makes things even worse. The classic one is exit 38. In 2017 exit 38 was flooded. The nearby Beenleigh Yatala Motor Inn was flooded and so too was the Yatala Pies shop. That was quite devastating for them; it took them out of business for quite some time. We saw that flooding again in this current flood.

In 2017 there was no business case in place for any work to be done at exit 38. In 2018 a business case was prepared and provided to the minister for him to consider. That was 2018, and one might wonder how much money is in place now to progress that given it is four years down the road. I can confirm for the House that there is not one dollar. That business case has been on the minister's desk since 2018 and there has not been one dollar for exit 38 upgrades in the last two budgets. I am hoping—fingers crossed—we will see something in the upcoming budget, because something has to be done at exit 38. Had work been done there, we would have seen some improvement in the traffic flows in and around that area. Of course, it would not have resolved the whole issue.

I wish to raise another issue that was impacted by the floods, and once again I am talking about another exit, exit 45. Members hear from me often about all of the exits, but exit 45 is seeing a bandaid solution put in place instead of a full-blown solution. Another major issue was the impact the floods had on the schools. Most of the students live on one side of the highway and have to travel to the other side of the highway to get to their school. The chair of the Ormeau Woods Parents and Citizens Association contacted me as well as the minister. I can confirm that nothing fruitful came from that contact with the minister. The P&C chair argues that we have to do something about exit 45 because things are bad at the best of times, but during times of flood things are absolutely impossible.

As a community, with our community groups and individuals pitching in and working together, at the end of the day we are resilient in the northern Gold Coast and we will bounce back from this flood event.