




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Queensland Floods

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.41 am): In my 10 years as the local MP for the seat of Everton the recent flooding events have by far been the worst natural disaster impact that my electorate has experienced. We had flooding that has never been seen before. I am old enough to remember the 1974 floods when I was just a young teenager and these floods have been worse. Many times there were comments from people saying that they have never seen anything like this before. I estimate that probably 40 to 50 homes were impacted.

Illawarra Street at Everton Hills had the combination of the water running down the street like a torrent hitting the Kedron Brook at the bottom of the street and rising rapidly. I remember speaking to Ryan Weston there—a good old Aussie who just got into cleaning up under his house and helping his neighbours. It was encouraging in really hard times to see his attitude. That was at Everton Hills. Griffith Street, Gordon Parade and Little Street in Everton Park were hit pretty bad. I was speaking to Nathan and Sam in Little Street and Natasha across the road and they told me about the water that came across the Mitchelton football fields and through their houses and many other houses up that street.

St Helens Road, Lansvale Street and Blackwood Street at Mitchelton were all inundated with the rising waters of the Kedron Brook going through their homes, with some of them having to evacuate. Of course, that was at the southern end of the electorate in the Brisbane City Council area. The electorate was affected as well in the Moreton Bay northern end—not quite as bad but, still for those who were affected, it was bad enough. I was at Birmingham Street at Eatons Hill when I met Matthew and Samantha who normally have a beautiful view over the creek, but it became a raging torrent and went through their house in a bad way.

The Everton Plaza shopping centre, which has been a great new eating precinct, had rising waters that came very rapidly. Stellarossa, 5 Boroughs, Sweeties and the Janome sewing machine shop all went under as well. Local businesses that have had a pretty hard run over the last two years because of COVID have been hit again. Albany Creek State School and Albany Hills State School both had water coming through them—the assembly hall at Albany Creek State School and the administration block at Albany Hills State School.

I echo some of the comments made by other speakers in that it is great to see Queenslanders coming together at this time. I do not know how many people said to me, 'Yes, we've been hit, but other people are worse off.' If there is anything good that comes out of a natural disaster it is the fact that people get together, there is great community spirit and we all pitch in together. I must mention Mitchelton Football Club. The artificial turf pitch, which is now like rolls of carpet—a \$1½ million investment by both the Brisbane City Council and the state government—is gone, ruined. I hope in the future there is something that the minister can do there. It was a magnificent pristine pitch that allowed people to play all year round no matter the conditions.

The opposition leader did touch on an issue that does need to be improved next time—that is, clearer communication—and those in the South-East Queensland corner realise that the schools had yet another very tough week. We should not forget that at the beginning of the year two weeks were taken out of the school year. During the flooding four days were taken out, which I think was unnecessary, and the communication was either non-existent or incredibly confusing. I heard reports of children going up to teachers and saying that their mum and dad were on their way and the teachers had no idea what it was about. Principals had no idea what it was about. It was very confusing, and of course there was no rain. In fact, in the typical Queensland manner, I was at the garage on the Friday when the schools were closed and one of the parents said to me, 'Tim, thank goodness the kids aren't at school today because they would've got sunburnt!' That is how ridiculous it was. We need clear communication, but that was a poor example of it.

(Time expired)