




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Floods

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.25 pm): This time last year my community experienced devastating flooding. The homes of residents of Elanora and Tallebudgera flooded in a way that they had never seen before—not during Cyclone Debbie and, for some, not in the 40 years they have lived there. One year on and our community is still waiting for this state government to provide them with the answers that they have asked for.

I am so glad that the Minister for Main Roads and Transport is in the chamber tonight because, just last week, 200 members of my community came together in the hope that this state government would come down, listen to them and provide them with the answers that they deserve. They wanted to be provided with the promised hydraulic report that looked into whether or not the M1 construction works contributed to the flooding of their homes. Did the minister turn up? Did this state government turn up to give my community the answers they deserve? No! They were a complete no-show.

Therefore, I will read into the record what was said by some of the people at that forum so that this minister can hear it. Kathleen from Tallebudgera said—

We would like to be heard by our government. Our home is still ruined, and we have a 97-year-old mother living at our home with no walls, no flooring ... and we are still fighting with our insurance.

Mandy from Tallebudgera said, 'We need answers, this was not normal.' Camilla from Tallebudgera said, 'Keep pushing the state government for accountability and response.' Graham from Elanora said—

I want confirmation from the Government that the drainage has been improved around the M1 roadworks. We are only back in our house now after 12 months and I don't want to worry every time it rains.

Terrence and Moira from Elanora said—

We want a reply to any questions regarding the cause of the flooding and to inform residents. I have lived in my house for 24 years and never been flooded until the roadworks started.

Robin from Elanora said—

I lost my home and am still in temporary accommodation. My home is still under repair and my insurance premium has increased by over 100%—it is unaffordable, and I am fearful it will happen again.

Tony and Michelle from Elanora said—

It appears that neither the Minister nor the Premier could care less about us, we are collateral damage and our lives are not important enough to be bothered with.

That is what my community is saying and this state government refuses to listen and refuses to give them the answers they deserve. I am calling on the minister to meet with my community. I call on him to come down and talk to the residents and give them the answers they deserve. All they want is a time line for the release of the hydraulics reports. They want to be consulted on the terms of reference

for the hydraulics report. They want the government to communicate with them around what is happening. They deserve those answers. Those people's homes flooded in a way that has never happened before. All they are asking is for the state government to listen to them, consult with them and keep their word. Release the hydraulic report in full.