




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast, Flooding

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to comment tonight about a couple of hypocritical speeches given by government ministers this morning. I start with the member for Gladstone, who talked about dams. The only dam that is being—

Ms BOYD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member has used unparliamentary language.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. I will need to take some advice. Member, I did not catch what you said.

Mr HART: I withdraw. The only dam this government is building is an accidental dam on the Gold Coast called the M1. During the last heavy rain there, the M1 caused the flooding of a couple of hundred homes in the Elanora area. On Saturday, the member for Currumbin held a meeting with her local residents to which she invited the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. What happened? Nothing. There was no response; he did not show up. The minister gave a speech today complaining about flooding in his electorate and complaining about the Brisbane council. I will not use that word again, but you know what it is.

Mr Stevens: Ironic.

Mr HART: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. All the people there want is to meet with the minister or the Premier to find out exactly what happened during that rain event and see whether the works on the M1 caused the issue. For some houses that flooded, people have not been able to get back in. We have houses that flooded that have never flooded before—that have never seen water around them before. The only thing that has changed is that the M1 is being widened. There is a lot more dirt and a lot less drainage there and the river has been choked. One plus one equals two, usually—apparently not to this government.

The member for Currumbin, the member for McPherson, the local councillor and I have invited the minister and the Premier to talk to the local community about Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4. I wrote to the Premier and the minister a week ago. We are proposing that meeting for a month's time, and I will probably push it back for another month to make sure that the minister and the Premier are available to come. I am not holding my breath, because they do not appear to want to talk to the community. The Premier told everybody in this state that you do not need to hire a consultant to get a meeting with the Premier, but apparently you do. We might have to hire Anacta. Maybe then the people in my electorate can get to talk to the Minister for Transport or the Premier about their houses being flooded or about the way that light rail stage 4 will destroy Palm Beach.