




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, 2022 Logan Floods

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.03 pm): This week marks one year since Logan was inundated with floodwater—the worst flooding event that the community had seen in almost 50 years. I saw firsthand how hard the floods hit residents across the south side. Logan residents were left without power and were completely cut off for days at a time. With Major General Jake Ellwood, I met with people who were struggling with mental health issues because of the natural disaster and with mountains of insurance paperwork.

The floods were a difficult time for thousands of families and I know that for many the recovery is not over yet. However, just as we did in 2011, 2013 and 2017, I am so proud that Logan banded together as a community and day by day overcame this monumental challenge. In the weeks and months after the flooding, we saw an enormous outpouring of support and assistance for those in need. Organisations like Lighthouse Community Care, Everything Suarve, Domino's Logan, Patino Lawyers, HelloFresh, Woolworths Meadowbrook and Bunnings Browns Plains all donated food, water and other essential items for those who needed it most.

It was not just businesses and community groups who were pitching in. Regular everyday residents in my community were arriving at my electorate office asking where they could drop off pallets of water bottles, warm blankets and bags of groceries. At times we were struggling to find places to store all the donated items and work out the logistics to get it to those most in need. That is how much support there was. The generosity and community spirit displayed by the people of Logan was nothing short of a miracle. I know I said it last year but I will say it again: thank you to each and every one of the Waterford and Logan community members who reached out to help where they could.

I also want to extend my thanks to the Deputy Premier whom I joined to announce the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund last year. It was the largest program of its kind to ever be delivered in this country, and it is helping to make our communities' homes more flood resilient so that families do not have to keep going through this process every time our rivers rise. Through repairs, retrofitting, raising and in some cases voluntary buybacks, our government is ensuring that residents along the Logan River and right across Queensland can have peace of mind.

While the last 12 months have been hard, I know that we will always come back stronger because that is what makes Logan so special. In times of adversity we come together, we lend a hand and we look out for those in our community who need it. I often say I am proud to represent the people of Waterford, but as I stand here reflecting on the 12 months since those devastating floods I must say I have never been prouder.