




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Crosby Bridge, Flood Immunity

 **Mr ZANOW** (Ipswich West—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise today to shine a spotlight on the new Mount Crosby bridge spanning the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby. This bridge was originally slated to open in 2018; however, it opened in 2024—six years late. Members on this side of the House believe that projects should be delivered on time and on budget.

The new Mount Crosby vehicle bridge has been built to a flood immunity level of about 3,000 cubic metres per second, representing a one-in-20-year flood immunity. At the start of the 2022 flood event, the Wivenhoe Dam level was well below the operational full storage level and quickly rose to a peak lake level of RL 74.61. This level is very close to the RL 75 level which triggers the requirement for emergency releases—we got very, very close to a 2011 event.

To return the lake level to an operational full storage level, a total of 1,970,000 megalitres was released from Wivenhoe. The aggregate flows at Mount Crosby exceeded 3,000 cubic metres per second from 26 February to 4 March—around six days of inundation. This is similar to the 2011 event, where it would have been inundated for a period of seven days.

We all know that, once a bridge is inundated, it needs to be inspected post-flood event, further increasing the time the bridge is not used. Residents rely on the critical connectivity that this bridge gives during flood events between Ipswich West and Moggill. There are thousands of passes across this bridge during flood times, but it has been built at only a one-in-20-year flood immunity level instead of a one-in-100-year flood immunity level. This is a good example of building infrastructure which is not fit for purpose. Furthermore, the bridge's immunity level should have been built to the one-in-100-year flood immunity level.

At this point, I must compliment Seqwater Flood Operations engineers for doing an exceptional job managing the 2022 event. I also must compliment the recently retired chairman of the Mid Brisbane Irrigators Association, Mr Tom Wilkinson, who, for many years, led a small team and liaised with Seqwater on many issues, including revising the manual from version 7 right through to the current version 17.

The careful management of Wivenhoe and Somerset Dam infrastructure is critical to our communities. Whilst I welcome the investment in new infrastructure within the Ipswich West electorate right over to the Moggill electorate, we need to ensure that the new infrastructure is fit for purpose. I request the minister consult with the community before building important infrastructure like this in the future.