




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.33 pm): I, like the member for Mirani, rise tonight to speak about the devastating effects that Tropical Cyclone Debbie had in my region of the Albert electorate, the northern Gold Coast. We were heavily affected. We had multiple bridges fail. Their embankments washed away which caused enormous grief for local motorists and local businesses in my region.

Coomera River was heavily affected during the recent flooding events. The river height gauge at Clagiraba on the night of the flood was over two metres above the major flood level. That shows how much water was coming down the Coomera River that night. The next morning I met with Russell Lynch, the president of my local pony club, which is just up from the John Muntz Bridge. We were absolutely heartbroken when we saw that so much of the riverbank had washed away down the Coomera River. All of this erosion made its way down to John Muntz Bridge. About 26 metres of the riverbank had been eaten away from the bridge. That bridge is a critical link for the southern parts of my electorate. About 15,000 cars a day would go over that bridge. At the moment cars have to detour through Upper Coomera and use exit 57 via Heathwood Drive, which is causing an enormous amount of congestion for motorists.

To the north, Alan Wilkie Bridge, which is a crucial link especially for trucks and B-doubles, also sustained significant damage during the flood event. I want to thank the Gold Coast City Council for the repair and restoration works to that critically important infrastructure. I also thank the department of main roads, which, with the support of the local community, got 1,600 signatures for a petition to get the John Muntz Bridge underway.

I want to thank many community groups and members of the community for helping our local businesses. When the Beenleigh RSL put the call out, we had hundreds and hundreds of people picking up memorabilia from the RSL, protecting all this history which was wonderful. I also want to thank my local rural fire brigades and the SES for its daring rescue of some of my constituents in Halls Road, an area in my electorate which was heavily affected by the recent flooding event. I want to thank all the people who came out to give up their time to help those in need.