




Speech By
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Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the motion to take note of report No. 10 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 16 of 2015-16, *Flood resilience of river catchments*. Over many years my electorate has been affected by flood events. My former electorate of Albert was affected in 2017 and in years previous to that. There are two major rivers that feed into the Moreton Bay and Gold Coast region: the Albert-Logan and Coomera rivers within the old boundaries of Albert. I found it very interesting reading through the committee's report and seeing how the recommendations have been implemented. I agree that one size cannot fit all situations. In my region, for instance, the Albert River is a slower running river than the Coomera River. The Coomera River has a tendency to peak very quickly and bring water down very rapidly and therefore would give most residents in that region very little warning time.

In 2017 when the ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie rain event came down into my region I will never forget the heartache for so many residents around Halls Road, which is located on the banks of the Albert River. We had a situation of mass devastation where people's houses and sheds were washed away. There was a very, very daring rescue by the local SES. I thank again Jim Ferguson, the SES controller for Logan, and his team for their rapid reaction in saving those people's lives by getting them off the roof of that house. As history would demonstrate, that house did not last very long in that flood. For those residents in Halls Road it was a scene of absolute disaster. Their precious items—memorabilia, photographs, et cetera—were stripped away from their houses and washed down the river.

Whilst the floodwaters rose very rapidly there, it was nothing compared to the flood we had on the Coomera River. That leads me to my main point when it comes to flood resilience. As development happens in my region and there are more houses and more roadways with kerbing and channelling, water is transferred more quickly into these rivers, and therefore causing the rivers to rise more rapidly reducing time for warnings but also enhancing the height of these floods. This was no more evident than on the Coomera River in the 2017 floods where, unfortunately, the Tamborine Oxenford Road was cut.

Governments of all layers need to come together to work towards one common goal. Unfortunately, we see a bit of a political blame game between two layers of government over the John Muntz Bridge in my region. It is the residents and local businesses who will suffer the next time that riverbank gives way and the connection road is washed away. I hope that the state government and the Gold Coast City Council can come together to reinforce that riverbank to prevent any further erosion to that connection road. That connection road, as I say, is a very important arterial link for my region—Tamborine Mountain, Upper Coomera and Maudsland. Many thousands of vehicles drive across that bridge every single day. The government needs to sort this issue out.