




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Weather Events

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.24 pm): The clean-up after the Christmas Day storms continues in the Theodore electorate. The Insurance Council of Australia claimed that the Christmas Day storms and the rain event that followed have cost the insurance companies upwards of \$968 million. Whilst we are under no illusion that 89,000 claims represent a mammoth task, I ask the insurance companies to work actively with residents to expedite claims. We can all understand the emotions of all those families struggling to deal with their circumstances, whether they have roof damage causing water inundation or their house needs to be completely rebuilt.

Many residents are frustrated by the difficulties in speaking with case managers and a lack of information communicated to them from their insurer. This makes a stressful situation even more stressful. One example is an individual in Upper Coomera who claimed that their house had substantial roof damage. The assessor came out and said it was a maintenance issue, yet prior to the storm there were other rain events and the roof did not leak and there was no ceiling damage. Currently that section of their house is non-livable because water pours into the ceiling every time it rains. On that same property, a shed about 200 metres away was completely flattened by the storm, purely from wind pressure. I thank the Insurance Council of Australia for taking important steps to host one-on-one personal consultation assistance events in Upper Coomera, Tamborine and Jimboomba, and I hope these consultation events continue into the future.

I would also like to highlight the lack of support the Gold Coast City council ratepayers have received from the Labor state government. The exceptional circumstances local recovery and resilience grants, which are up to a million dollars for each council affected, are a small drop in the ocean when it comes to the massive task ahead. The cost of recovery for ratepayers is mammoth and this measly \$1 million allocated to the Gold Coast City council will do very little to help the overall clean-up. To highlight the issue, there are about 77,000 truck movements that pick up green waste debris and it is estimated they would fill 80 football fields two metres high. Therefore \$1 million is an absolute pittance when it comes to the clean-up operation. It shows that the Labor state government has very little interest in Gold Coasters.