



**Adjournment Speech by  
GLEN ELMES MP - Member for Noosa**

**NOOSA ELECTORATE - FLOODING**

**Hansard, 8 September, 2007**

---

**Mr ELMES (Noosa--Lib) (7.52 pm):** I rise tonight to speak about the recent extraordinary rainfall that fell across my electorate, together with the flooding of the Noosa River, which threatened homes and businesses. As many members would know already, Noosa received the worst storm and flooding since 1992. The only reason the flood damage was not worse was the excellent work of the local authorities, the Noosa and Maroochy communities and especially our SES volunteers. In fact, reports say that the total rainfall was more than 950 millimetres over the week and that floodwaters rose by 1.7 metres.

In the face of this terrible adversity, the community banded together to fight for their homes and those of their neighbours. It is in times of adversity that the core Australian values of mateship, hard work and sense of community stand out most clearly. So what is a community? Is it just a group of people who live close to each other? No. I think a community is forged when people stand together in good times and bad, helping each other out when needed to overcome mutual hardship.

On behalf of all the residents in the Noosa electorate, I would like to thank Ray Kelly, deputy chair of the Noosa council disaster committee; Ron Thomas, the deputy chief executive officer of the Noosa Council disaster committee; Dave Hanchard, the Noosa shire local controller for the SES; Fred Reuter the SES controller Maroochy shire; and the Maroochy and Noosa council staff themselves who, together with the external workforce, made themselves available 24 hours a day during the fight against this terrible disaster. Their efforts saved many within the electorate from far greater harm. I and each and every resident owe them a great deal of thanks.

I give special thanks to the emergency services workers who go above and beyond their work duties to help and care for those affected. I refer to the fire services and rural fire services, the ambos, the Energex crews, the Coast Guard, Surf Life Saving, the boating and marine crews, the Queensland Police Service and the amateur radio people who helped enormously. I also give thanks to the hinterland residents, especially those at Boreen Point who organised the backhoe to get the general store equipment and stores up to higher ground and over to the fire station so that people could purchase supplies while the township was cut off due to flooding.

Over the past couple of days it has been raining heavily once again and as I speak our SES personnel and other volunteers are once again away from their families and risking their lives so that others in our community can be safe. As a way of thanks, I intend to have plaques prepared for presentation to the SES in both Noosa and Maroochy. They certainly deserve it.

---