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\$150,000 donated to appeal

DONATIONS have started to roll in for the Ipswich Flood Appeal with more than \$150,000 already raised.

Money raised for *The Queensland Times*-backed appeal will go towards helping Ipswich residents who lost their homes and businesses in the floods.

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Donations roll in to help flood battlers

Three corporations show support with \$50,000 each



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BUSINESSES have already started helping the Ipswich community climb back from the flood disaster by donating more than \$150,000 to the Ipswich Flood Appeal.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale started the appeal on Tuesday as a means for the community to donate to Ipswich residents who lost homes and businesses last week.

Three companies chipped in \$50,000 each on the first day of the appeal, while the Ipswich RSL donated \$500.

It wasn't just big businesses donating, with residents like Garry Rodgers from the Brewers Choice store in Yamanto donating \$2000 to support the community that has always backed his store.

"I just wanted to help in some way.

"I hope other people support the appeal as well," Mr Rodgers said.

One business that donated

\$50,000 to the fund was the Amex Corporation, which has had a presence in the city after securing land in the Ripley Valley back in 2003.

State manager Warren Harris said his company was keen to help Ipswich residents and businesses as soon as they heard the floods had struck.

"It makes sense: it's an area where we will be working for the next 15 years-plus. We want to back the community we work in," Mr Harris said.

Wingate Properties, which has been involved in the Ipswich community for years with developments like Riverlink and the Swanbank Enterprise Park, also donated \$50,000.

Founder Stephen Williams said he wanted to see those who lost everything in the floods bounce back as quick as possible.

"I'm acutely aware of the

suffering people are going through, both physically and emotionally," Mr Williams said.

Matching that donation was property development company Payce Consolidated.

The clean-up in flood-affected suburbs continued yesterday, and North Booval resident Nigel Grams, whose home was inundated by floodwater, said the appeal would be a great help for hard-hit families.

"If businesses and groups can support those that are doing it tough, I think that's great," Mr Grams said.

Cr Pisasale said the donations that have already come in are a testament to the community spirit in the city.

"This is about working with the State Government's appeal to help Ipswich residents in need.

"The support we've had already is amazing," Cr Pisasale said.



GREATFUL FOR SUPPORT: Nigel and Linda Grams and their son Jayden of North Booval were among many families whose houses were flooded in last week's disastrous floods.

Photo: David Nielsen IPS190111FL019A

HOW TO DONATE

- At council's Customer Service Centre at 143 Brisbane Street
- At any Bendigo Bank branch
- By post to Ipswich City Council, PO Box 191 Ipswich. Cheques should be made out to the Mayor's Community Fund
- By electronic funds transfer – BSB 633-000, account 128672318, account name: Ipswich Mayors Community Fund