




Speech by

Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

NANANGO ELECTORATE, FLOOD RECOVERY

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.41 pm): I am pleased that the regions are finally being given some recognition. It is all due to the LNP government and it is happening in our first 100 days in office. Our LNP government is proud of the regions. As everyone will recall, the electorate of Nanango suffered extensive damage during the late 2010 and early 2011 floods. While our region was not highlighted by the media like some others were, we are still coming to terms with the amount of damage that was done to our roads, our farms and our towns and the extent of the recovery process.

A good-news story has come from this recovery process—that is, the jobs programs that are taking place now throughout my electorate which also help our towns recover from the floods. Two examples are the Kilcoy Restoration and Cleanup Project and the Nanango Flood Restoration Project. I had the privilege of attending the graduation ceremony for the Kilcoy Restoration and Cleanup Project in late May. In attendance at that ceremony were the 11 graduates. They were all Kilcoy area jobseekers and they were part of a larger project involving four intakes of workers in Kilcoy, Lowood, Redbank and Toogoolawah. The project was managed by the Construction Training Centre and it was a complete success.

In this case, the group—comprised of displaced workers, long-term unemployed people and other disadvantaged jobseekers—were provided with 15 weeks paid work experience and were supported by accredited and non-accredited training in general construction, landscaping, land management, environmental skills and employability skills. It was pleasing to meet one of those workers, who is now in full-time employment, and I can report that two others now have part-time work. These workers worked along the Kilcoy Creek cleaning and clearing debris. They also planted trees at the showgrounds to prevent further erosion, and they built and repaired seats and pathways. The team even managed to complete some extra tasks for the Somerset Regional Council.

In Nanango, five long-term unemployed jobseekers graduated in June after completing paid work placements with South Burnett CTC fixing flood damaged areas in Nanango. Three barbecues were built at Pioneer Park, while Mount Stanley Park was equipped with a dog enclosure and dog exercise equipment which participants built from recycled material. At Lions Park, damaged historical fencing was rebuilt.

These projects have provided real opportunities for people who are battling to escape long-term unemployment, and they happen in a very positive, team-building and confidence-building way. The results have spoken for themselves, with a high percentage of people now involved in employment. I would like to thank those involved in the project for their enthusiasm and dedication, not only for finding employment but also for rebuilding the Nanango electorate following the disaster.