




Speech by

Howard Hobbs

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

ROMA, FLOOD MITIGATION

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (3.07 pm): Many members in this House would be aware of the devastating floods that affected a lot of our towns, particularly the rural towns in my area of the Warrego electorate. I want to advise the members of this House that we have been working on a solution. In some instances there are no solutions to flooding in some towns, because of their location. But I want to tell members about what we are doing out at Roma. It really is a case where, if you put your mind to it, something can be done.

At present insurance companies are increasing home insurance premiums for everybody in the 4455 postcode area of Roma. Those insurance premiums are going up from \$1,000 to \$7,000. That is the sort of increase that we are seeing across-the-board. As members can imagine, that is having an enormous impact and is a great worry for many people. But we have a plan. We are going to build a levee bank that will go from the airport right to the railway line and across the main road. It will be a very satisfactory levee bank. It will be built about .6 of a metre higher than the last record flood. That will cover a one in a 1,000 year event. That is absolutely fantastic. It is the way we should plan these things.

There will also be a western diversion drain that will take a lot of the water out from the town. Already a creek goes past the town—past the Big Rig—and that will be opened up. It will be dug deeper and wider and it will take a lot of water from the town itself. A lot of consultation has been going on and there will be more over the next few weeks. The Maranoa Regional Council has been very active on this issue.

I want to assure those people who are affected that every effort will be made to ensure they receive assistance by way of a land swap, house raising or whatever the case may be. We will move heaven and earth to ensure that people are looked after. There will also be a levee bank on the eastern side of town to protect that industrial area. Levee banks do work. This one will work. There are many towns that would not have survived without levee banks, such as Goondiwindi, Cunnamulla and many towns in New South Wales that rely on them for protection from Mother Nature. People need to have confidence that they can go to sleep at night when it is raining and their home will not flood. People are very concerned about whether their house will flood. Under our plan they will be saved.