




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Nanango Electorate, Drought Assistance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.49 pm): Times are tough in the Nanango electorate. I have spent the last several weeks travelling around the great electorate of Nanango looking at the devastating effects of the drought that have slowly crept in from the west and have now hit the majority of my electorate. I would like to thank the minister, Dr John McVeigh, for the drought declaration for the areas of the South Burnett, the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Western Downs Regional Council. As late as this afternoon, I had a call from a constituent unfortunately down in the Somerset region who is now looking for an individual drought declaration as well. It is really quite devastating to see the effects of drought—there is no water and no feed—and to see what this is doing to some of my local producers.

The other issue I would like to touch on is the effect the drought is having on local small businesses, not only the people who sell supplies to these regional producers but also small businesses such as the coffee shops or the food shops. Everyone is really, really struggling. What I would like to do is stand in the House tonight and recognise all the struggling producers that we have in my electorate and say that I am very proud of the support that our government has been able to provide so far, and to let them know that we are there and that if there is any help that they think they are not getting then they can contact either my office or the local Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry based in Kingaroy.

Also, it is good to note that I have met with my federal colleague the Hon. Bruce Scott, and he is doing everything he can to support the constituents of the Nanango electorate as well, as is the federal minister Warren Truss. I met with him only a week or so ago in relation to the issues that are surrounding a lot of our primary producers throughout our region. This is a time when we also need to ensure that if anyone is feeling the strain of this drought—and it is very real—whether they are feeling any form of depressive mood or just feeling really down and out in relation to their circumstances, then they should contact Lifeline or their local member.