




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Nanango Electorate, Primary Producers

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.41 pm): Primary producers are the lifeblood of my Nanango electorate, and they have been doing it tough over the last several years, with two floods and a severe drought. It has been my goal this year, and every year, to focus on the primary producers and to provide as much support as possible. I wanted to highlight in the chamber tonight two key outcomes which I believe will assist the landholders in and around that great area of the South Burnett.

Firstly, earlier this year I was contacted by a group of irrigators who work the land adjacent to Barkers Creek near the township of Nanango. This group of around 50 farmers were seeking representation to assist them in the review of the Burnett Water Resource Plan, which initially suggested water licensing and meters may be required to help manage the Barkers Creek groundwater. Over several months I was able to work with the landholders and we also conducted a public meeting with them so that I could understand and hear their issues and work on strategies to address their concerns.

The group were able to put together an excellent submission which demonstrated how they could manage the water sustainably without the need for meters. I was able then to take that submission directly to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Hon. Andrew Cripps, requesting him to consider their request and to highlight the fact that under the current difficult circumstances the last thing my locals needed was more paperwork and costs. I am extremely pleased to say that the minister recognised the farmers' submission and no water licences or meters will be required on Barkers Creek. This has been an excellent outcome and I would like to thank the local primary producers involved for their patience in working through this extremely important issue. I would also like to again thank here in the chamber tonight the minister Andrew Cripps for the hard work he also put in to resolving that issue for us.

In the time I have left I would like to mention the recent agriculture and natural resources forum which I held in the town of Kingaroy during September. This was my second agriculture forum and it was my goal to bring both the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Natural Resources to the South Burnett to give our primary producers the opportunity to speak one on one with these key decision makers. It was a fantastic day and next year I would encourage more landholders and producers to come along. Both ministers stayed in Kingaroy at the forum for the whole day, so anyone who wanted to address any concerns with either the Hon. Dr John McVeigh or the Hon. Andrew Cripps were able to do so directly. Many issues were brought to the forefront and I know that both of those ministers have been working very hard through those issues, so I would also like to thank them. It was a wonderful day, and again I would like to encourage as many landholders as possible to attend the 2015 agriculture forum.

(Time expired)