




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Nanango Electorate, Achievements

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.15 pm): At the beginning of this year I set some key goals that I hoped would have lasting and direct benefits for the people of my great electorate of Nanango. I am proud that many of these have been achieved and the community will see some great benefits. I want to briefly mention a few.

For agriculture now we have new common-sense self-assessable vegetation management laws which give farmers back their right to manage their own vegetation, plus new rolling leases for leaseholders giving greater security and tenure for graziers. Both Minister McVeigh and Minister Cripps held their second annual agriculture forum in Kingaroy. In relation to education we have a brand new school building for Harlin State School which was desperately needed, and more prep teachers to help with numeracy and literacy.

In health we have a new renal service at Esk Hospital meaning people do not need to travel for treatment. We also have the rural generalist surgeon based in Kingaroy. Very excitingly, we were able to secure the Intrust Super Cup game in Kingaroy which highlighted the region and brought great economic and cultural benefits to the South Burnett. My small businesses have had reductions in WorkCover premiums of up to 17 per cent. My community groups have received over \$10 million injected into those groups through state government grants. We have had many roads done up.

With 2015 nearly here I have already earmarked my first key goal for next year, and that is the establishment of a Kingaroy Clubhouse in South Burnett. It is a passion of mine to provide better mental health services for people in regional communities. The Kingaroy Clubhouse would do just that—help people struggling with mental illness reconnect with the community. The clubhouse model has a proven track record, providing a scientifically evaluated and proven clinical intervention service that assists people who experience mental ill health. I have already written to seek support from the minister because I believe that this clubhouse will provide better services for those in need. Unfortunately many people in the South Burnett need this. Mental health support is one of the most common inquiries made at my electorate office.

Along with Cheryl Dalton of SB Care, community member Graham Archdall, Luke Terry of Toowoomba Clubhouse and Tim Saal of Rural and Remote Mental Health, our local advisory group has assessed the needs of the South Burnett and revealed that this proposed service would not duplicate any current services in Kingaroy and the wider South Burnett region. In fact, most local service providers report case loads at capacity and large waiting lists for patients. On behalf of our local group, I am seeking the funding to help run the Kingaroy Clubhouse in the initial two years. I believe this will be a very small investment for substantial savings made from keeping the people out of our hospitals and helping them to return to active participation in the community. We have already received offers of physical space and infrastructure to establish and maintain the clubhouse.

On a final note, I am thinking of our agricultural community who are really struggling through this dry time and I sincerely hope that the end of 2014, or at the very least 2015, will bring the rain that we so much need.