



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### Western Queensland Drought Appeal

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.12 pm): I rise to speak to raise awareness of the newly formed Western Queensland Drought Appeal and call on the state government to get behind it and support it. The appeal has been formed by a committee of well-respected citizens in Longreach to provide relief to the people of Western Queensland whose communities have been ravaged by drought.

The appeal offers the Australian public and the business community a vehicle through which they can donate money with confidence that those funds will provide meaningful relief to the people of Western Queensland. The Western Queensland Drought Appeal seeks cash donations which will be converted to generic debit cards and spent locally. The recipients can spend these debit cards at their local businesses. That way we achieve two goals.

The appeal is financially supporting all the people affected by drought—both bushies and townies—to obtain the necessities of life. It will also support local retailers by using them to supply the aid. This will ensure that retail workers and business operators keep their jobs in these communities and can stay.

While the spontaneous donations of food hampers have been very much appreciated by farming families, it does have an impact on local businesses and suppliers in town. Local businesses such as the IGA have been a key employer across the west. We need these operators to continue to operate and provide services to the people of Western Queensland.

I encourage people to support their fellow Queenslanders. I ask members in this House when they get to their communities after a long week to please spread the word among their communities and their families to support the Western Queensland Drought Appeal. I encourage people to spread the word the best way they can. Go to Facebook and search for the Western Queensland Drought Appeal page and make a donation, however small or large. Do not forget to like the page so it spreads the word.

Lastly, I would like to thank members of the committee of the Western Queensland Drought Appeal for their leadership in these grim times: Peter Whip, Bill Ringrose, Nicki Heslin, Damien Arthur, Rachel Bock, Jenny Coombes, Peter Coombes, Ingrid Miller, Ed Warren, Helen Barrett, Bill Parker, James Walker, John Jackson, Steve Eussen, Janelle Searles, Sue Smith, David Neil, David Phelps and Nikki Goodwin. These good people of Western Queensland have been there to help when we have needed it the most. I am calling on the Queensland government to get behind this appeal. We need cash in these towns so we can spread it throughout the community.

The towns of Longreach, Yaraka, down to Jundah, Quilpie and Windorah and back up to Blackall, Barcardine, Aramac and Muttaborra need an instant cash injection. The Queensland government has a role to play in supporting Western Queensland communities.