



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Blackwater; Springsure-Tambo Road

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.52 pm): Tonight I would like to talk about a very important town in the seat of Gregory, and that is Blackwater. I acknowledge the member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, who helped chair a recent meeting there. A young fellow called Kealhan O'Brien has become the champion of Blackwater. He is a school captain of the Blackwater North State School and he is in grade 6. I would quickly like to read a bit from his letter that he read out at that meeting in Blackwater and what it means to young kids living in Blackwater at the moment. He said—

As a local kid and a footballer, I have seen many of my mates already leave, as well as my boxing coach, who did not want to go. I have listened to mums and dads who are volunteers in our clubs and they are all concerned about being able to have teams to compete in the future. I worry about the future of our town, especially for the kids who grew up here. Things to do there are being taken away every day and will continue because there are less people to use them. Just recently our skate park and the BMX track were demolished, which made myself and a lot of my mates quite angry, and we have to find other places to ride.

I am in grade 6 and one of the school captains at Blackwater North. I am supposed to be enjoying everything about growing up, like sports and time with my mates, but with everything leaving this is now challenging. I wish I could get back to where the town that I heard so much about—the old stories told by the mums and dads who grew up in Blackwater. Blackwater really sounded like a great town to live in. I truly hope that mining companies will listen to people like me and the rest of the community, proud of what Blackwater has.

I would like to move on to a different subject that is just as important as continuing to make sure that towns like Blackwater in the Bowen Basin survive as we go through a mining downturn. The other issue, which is an issue that I continue to go on about, is Western Queensland roads and the reason we need these roads upgraded and continue to need them to be upgraded. I had the privilege of being welcomed to the Tresswell community, which is about 60 kilometres south-west of Tambo. They wrote a letter to me. It said—

Dear Lachlan,

Welcome to Tresswell. Sorry about the road after the bitumen.

As our local State MP, we the undersigned require you to make representations to the Transport Minister—  
and the Minister for Main Roads—

We wish to see the ongoing program renewed. This program lapsed in 2005.

Of course we are talking about the Tambo-Springsure road. The letter continues—

It was designed to improve the upkeep of the whole and the permanent sealing of five kilometres per year.

The country needs this road—

which is the Springsure-Tambo road—

to be good, to promote exports.

Springsure—

and Tambo—

needs this road to be good to breathe life into it.

The local school—

which is the Tresswell school—

needs this road to be good for everyday interaction.

Lachlan, we need your input.

Kindest regards,

That letter is from the Tresswell community. I call on the government of the day to make sure that the Springsure-Tambo road is maintained and upgraded as we need that road.