




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Booyal Bunyips

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (1.04 am): Queenslanders have a proud reputation for helping their mates in times of need and right now there are drought-stricken families, our fellow Queenslanders, who need our help. A small rural Burnett school nestled amongst the cane fields of Booyal has heard their cries loud and clear and are out to prove that laughter really is the best medicine.

Booyal Central State School students, fondly known as the Booyal Bunyips, have spent the past 12 months working on a DVD filled with gags in an effort to raise vital funds for grazing farming families doing it tough in Central Western Queensland. The budding comedians and entrepreneurs helped film and edit the DVD and even managed to rope in some celebrities to tell a joke or two. The likes of country singers Troy Cassar-Daley, Adam Brand and Beccy Cole are among the list of well-known names who feature in this wonderfully uplifting DVD. The *Kidding about for Drought* project has been a challenging and immensely rewarding journey for the Bunyips which has not only equipped these young students with new skills and given them a confidence boost but also, more importantly, brought a smile to many farming families who are doing it tough.

The people of Burnett are no stranger to adversity, having experienced firsthand the destruction and devastation that Mother Nature unleashed upon our communities during the 2010 and 2013 flood events. Given the overwhelming generosity shown to our community, it is only fitting that our community would give back and return that kindness. So far the school has managed to raise around \$3,000. It is not a bad effort from a small country school, but the students are not stopping there. They are aiming high and have set a fundraising target of \$10,000. After meeting these passionate students, I can assure members that they are more than capable of reaching that target.

I would like to congratulate all the students and staff involved in this heartwarming project. I urge each and every MP in this House to buy a copy or two of the *Kidding about for Drought* DVD to help support this important cause. All funds raised from the sale of this delightful DVD will be donated to the QCWA's Public Rural Crisis Fund and directed straight to the households of drought affected graziers on the school's behalf. Order your copy online and perhaps send one as a surprise gift to a drought-stricken farmer at www.booyalbunyips.com at a reasonable cost of \$16. Well done Bunyips! The people of Burnett are extremely proud of your kind-hearted efforts.