



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Quilpie Shire Centenary**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.54 pm): It gives me great pleasure to place on record a history of Quilpie presented by Lyn Barns and written by Sister Margaret Anderson at the Quilpie Shire Centenary welcome dinner on 27 April 2017. Let us take ourselves back, not to 29 April 1917, the day Quilpie was officially proclaimed a town, but to 18 March 1916 and that day's edition of the *Northern Miner*, the Charters Towers newspaper. In the business section, mention is made of the new settlement Quilpie where a land sale was held. To quote from the article—

Bidding created surprise to everyone.

62 allotments were sold with storekeeper George Espie paying 700 pounds for a corner block. In all, land sales that day totalled 5500 pounds.

The news item continues—

Prices show the extraordinary faith the tradesmen have in the new township.

In a June 1916 edition of the paper mention is made of 'Mr Delaney from Adavale who is building a butchers shop in the township of Quilpie along with storekeepers erecting stores.'

On 29 April 1917 Quilpie was proclaimed a town with rights and responsibilities. Those who heard the news were excited. What would it mean for the fledgling town—the townspeople; those who would call it home? Speculation was rife! Questions were pondered. Would a community gather around the new hub? Would the town and community support each other? The town of Quilpie and community have outlasted the speculations and musings of those far off days. For 100 years Quilpie has stayed on the map. It has not been a century of smooth sailing.

Over the years drought and flooding rains, low prices and world wars have caused trouble and heartache but the towns built at the end of the line are often forced by circumstances to get in and get things done. This attitude has been part of the community and its leadership down the years.

As we look around during the week of the centenary, the displays throughout town give us a glimpse of life in the early years. As the wonders of the modern era reached Quilpie—the railway, electricity, the party line, motor cars and trucks, the picture theatre, bitumen roads, television, schools, the hospital, air conditioning—life was made easier but not less challenging. With the electronic era in full swing, we have been drawn into the 21st century.

As we begin our second century we have questions similar to our pioneering citizens. Will we still be on the map? What will be the challenges of the coming years? Will there be a compassionate community for the young and the old? What part will each of us play? May we, like the tradesmen of 1916-17, continue to have extraordinary faith in our town of Quilpie. We remember, we celebrate and we give thanks.