




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Burnett Electorate

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (10.58 pm): I have been very fortunate to represent the electorate of Burnett for the last 5½ years. It is a huge honour to work for the people of Burnett every day, because we need to make our communities and our electorates better places. When I look back to when I was first elected in 2012, I feel incredibly proud to represent the great people of the Burnett. Those who know me know the hard work and dedication that I have committed to our great region in the best interests of the Burnett.

Whether in government or in opposition, I have a proud track record of delivering for the Bundaberg and Burnett regions and fighting for the things that matter in our community. I have worked hard for the Burnett by bringing the decision-makers to the region. This has allowed quality, fully funded policies and projects to be developed. Our region now enjoys improved front-line services to keep our communities safe. We have built roads, schools and infrastructure that our kids need to get the best start in life.

Millions of dollars in funding has been secured for various local sporting and community groups which has delivered countless projects. The Burnett has benefited from improved emergency services resources including the delivery of new ambulance stations, fire stations and vehicles, such as the Miriam Vale Ambulance Station, new vehicles for Bargara and Woodgate, and new stations and vehicles in Childers.

We have delivered major road upgrades and flood mitigation measures and played an active role in securing critical infrastructure such as the gas pipeline and port development. We have ensured the delivery of significant tourism investments to enhance local iconic attractions like the Mon Repos Conservation Park and other attractions like the Childers Festival and the Captain Cook 1770 Festival. I was also pleased to secure additional funding to address urgent school maintenance backlogs and help improve the safety of a number of local schools by ensuring the installation of 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing light zones. I have stood up for local farmers in their fight against the Labor Party's land-clearing laws.

The people of Burnett and I have achieved a great deal together to make sure our region is a better place to live, work and raise a family. If the good people of Burnett put their faith in me once again, I will continue to be a strong voice for local families, small business, agriculture and industries. I will ensure real, progressive change to our community and help keep our neighbourhoods safe, continue to fix our roads, improve front-line services, ensure our local schools and health services are fully and aptly resourced, and build better roads and infrastructure because we need a stronger economy and a clean environment.

I am proud to have provided a permanent traffic solution for the people of Childers around the Lucketts Road intersection. The Apple Tree Creek upgrade has not gone unnoticed. We fixed that blackspot in consultation with the federal government. The Isis Highway has had plenty of safety

upgrades and the Elliott Heads Road safety upgrade has been a welcome addition. A total of \$3.1 million has been spent to improve Bucca Road's flood resilience during extreme weather events. The Mon Repos visitor centre, which I have already mentioned, received a boost of \$210,000 for turtles and for a digital experience. The Friends of Parks have also been a beneficiary. I want to commit to the people of Burnett for another term in government. I look forward to making Burnett a better place.