



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Gladstone Electorate, Drought Appeal; NRL Women's**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.18 pm): I would like to speak tonight on a recent fundraiser I held in Gladstone to help with the drought relief appeal that we see going on in Queensland. The title of the fundraiser was 'Butch bakes for bales'. Basically, the idea was that we would bake some cupcakes and sell them at Craig's Bakery, a local bakery. I first talked about this with a few of my staff. Jill Hopson, who works for me, used to own a property in the Boyne Valley and she is very passionate about the plight of the farmers and the drought that is happening at the moment. Jill's idea was not just to get our local community on board to support the drought; she went well above that and went to a local bakery, Craig's Bakery, and set the whole day up.

Basically, we talked to Ron and Renee Craig, who own the local bakery in Gladstone, and they were very supportive of the idea. Not only did they support the idea, but they baked over 350 cupcakes for us to sell out the front of their shop one morning. They donated all the money that went into baking the cakes. All the staff also donated their own time to help prepare the cakes and put the toppings on to ensure we could raise some money for these farmers for drought relief.

On the day we had 350 cupcakes to sell. We raised nearly \$3,000 in an hour and a half to put towards the drought relief appeal, which was absolutely fantastic. On that morning the QCWA, the Country Women's Association, from Gladstone, Calliope and surrounding branches came in and helped us sell the cupcakes and talked to the people about the drought issues they had been hearing. Those ladies were absolutely amazing. They worked all morning. They helped set up and pack everything away. They even helped count all the money at the end of the day to make sure it was going to the right places.

As we discussed, it is fantastic that all of the money that was raised that day with the QCWA as well as the money from the bucket that sat in the bakery for the rest of the week will be going to local farmers who are doing it tough. If anyone reads or hears about anyone from the local area around Gladstone and surrounds who is doing it tough, by all means they can pop into my office and grab a form. The money will go directly to them to help get them through these tough times. That will help get that money to where it is needed most.

While I am on my feet, I want to give a shout-out to two local Gladstone girls, Kody House and Chelsea Baker, who played in the first original women's Broncos team on the weekend. It was a very proud moment to see both those girls running out and playing for the best team in Queensland in the NRL, the mighty Broncos.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am not sure I can fully agree with the last statement.