



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Gregory Electorate, Rainfall

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise tonight to put on the public record the rain activity experienced in the electorate of Gregory. In the space of a few days more than 400 millimetres of rainfall has fallen across the region. Mount Macquarie at Blackall has had 57 millimetres; Noonbah Station at Longreach has had 84 millimetres; Western River at Winton has had 216 millimetres; Bexhill at Tambo has had 66 millimetres; Eltham at Isisford has had 50 millimetres; Wando Station at Winton has had 146 millimetres; Clarendon at Blackall has had 75 millimetres; Jedburgh at Yaraka has had 45 millimetres; and Newark Station at Jericho has had 30 millimetres.

The Ilfracombe Dam had been bone dry since January. The town was staring down the barrel of having no water. A downpour over the weekend brought the first inflow into the dam since 2016. The whole region has breathed a sigh of relief. One only has to see the expression on the face of the Mayor of Longreach, Ed Warren, on the news when he was at the dam to understand the relief of the townspeople when that dam started to fill up.

Despite the good news shared amongst some Western Queenslanders, many are yet to receive some rainfall. Some people have seen 200-plus millimetres while their neighbours have had nothing. That is nature's cruel reality in drought-stricken Western Queensland. Western Queensland has had some of the driest country in Queensland over the past seven years. Despite the recent patchy rains, the threat of drought remains very real.

The majority of graziers in Western Queensland are destocked. Many have not had an income for five to seven years and are struggling to put food on the table. Those lucky enough to receive rainfall are too scared to restock without the promise of more rain to come. The uncertainty has hit all of the communities in my electorate hard—small businesses are struggling and families have left in droves chasing work and a reprieve from unrelenting drought conditions. People are emotionally, physically, mentally and financially exhausted.

I want to remind everyone in this parliament that the drought is not over. It is far from over. Four days of rain does not undo seven years of relentless drought conditions. It does not immediately put food back on the table for struggling graziers. It does not help people restock their breeders or help small towns like Longreach, Winton and Blackall revive their main streets.

Now more than ever we need to support our farmers, graziers and our rural communities. They are the backbone of our agricultural industry. They put food on our tables and drive billions of dollars in revenue from agricultural exports for this great state. I do not want these rain reports to make anyone think that we are out of the woods and the drought is over, because it is simply not. Our farmers and graziers need our support now more than ever. Without our farmers and graziers, Queensland's economy would not survive.