



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

**MOTION**

**Natural Disasters**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to support the motion. I put on the record my thanks to those emergency workers and volunteers who have helped and, in many cases, are still helping to rebuild and with the recovery. This will go on for some time and their efforts to assist those affected are greatly appreciated. In Townsville, around the Burdekin and across the north-west, there is heartbreak—piles of heartbreak—on the roads and the footpaths, from hundreds of flooded homes and businesses that are going through the mucky, smelly clean-up.

In the north-west, rural properties and towns are also doing it tough. It is very hard for those rural producers to go out every day and see what Mother Nature has unleashed on their properties and livestock. One day they were feeding their stock due to drought and the next day, and for days after that, they were wishing that the rain would stop. They have been and they are going through a traumatic experience, and I fear for the health and wellbeing of those good people. From Townsville on the coast to the border of the Northern Territory, people are in physical and mental pain. In this parliament, I want to acknowledge all of them.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of the mayors and local governments from across the region, which have kilometres and kilometres of roads and other infrastructure to repair. I acknowledge the council workers who have been right at the coalface of this disaster. I acknowledge people such as Mayor Jane McNamara, who said that they had their annual average rainfall in seven days. I acknowledge Mayor Gavin Baskett at Winton, where part of the shire was hard hit and still they are losing stock. In the McKinlay shire, Mayor Belinda Murphy said that her shire looked like an ocean. The region needs a massive recovery effort.

At Richmond, Mayor John Wharton reported that producers have lost up to 50 per cent of their stock, if not more. The mayor from Carpentaria, Jack Bawden, does not want any rain, because four rivers are in major flood and all that water is heading to Kurumba. In the Croydon shire, Mayor Trevor Pickering would really like a new bridge over the Gilbert River, as they have been cut off in every direction. The mayor of Etheridge shire, Warren Devlin, said that they have a massive road repair job in front of them. I table pictures of some of the road damage in that shire.

*Tabled paper:* Photographs depicting the Hann Highway in the Etheridge Shire Council [250](#).

I also acknowledge the mayor of the Burke Shire Council, Ernie Camp, who said that this disaster may have a generational effect—it may last for generations—even though they have had a dry flood. At Cloncurry, Mayor Greg Campbell said that parts of his shire have been affected. I acknowledge Jenny Hill and her council workers. Their community will be recovering for some time to come.

I acknowledge those mayors from right across Queensland. They are doing a day-in day-out job. It is a tough job. I thank them for their leadership and for their efforts. I thank their councillors and the council workers for what they all do for their shires.