




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Southern Downs Electorate, Drought

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise in the House tonight to speak about the issue of drought in Southern Downs. One of the tragedies of the drought in Southern Downs and all over my electorate is that many residents live outside of the towns and rely on tank water for their drinking water supply. Of course, when there is no rain there is no inflow to the tanks. When that is added to the fact that many people who live outside the towns have spent all of their funds trying to keep their stock alive—and have had no income at the same time—their situation is particularly difficult.

I express my sincere thanks to the charities in Southern Downs that do such great work getting water and other supplies to those in need.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, there is way too much noise in the chamber. I ask members to leave the chamber quietly in order to hear the speaker on his feet.

Mr LISTER: The difficulty is that the charities involved need support. As I mentioned in a debate last week, I have asked for state government assistance to one particular charity, Granite Belt Water Relief, in providing material and transport support. This was based on a request I had received from the charity in which it was said that its purpose was to help Granite Belt rural residents who cannot afford or do not have access to clean drinking water. For the benefit of the House I table that document, along with the charity registration for Granite Belt Water Relief.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 September 2019, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding drinking water to residents in the Stanthorpe area [1906](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission webpage titled 'Granite Belt Drought Appeal' [1907](#).

The reply I received from the Premier suggested that there was a misunderstanding in that the request applied to drinking water for the town. There was a refusal on that basis plus a suggestion that the task was not one suitable for assistance from the Australian Defence Force, one of my suggestions. Coming as I do from the Air Force, I know that at RAAF base Amberley the Air Force and Army have a lot of water trucks and a lot of equipment. I would have thought that might be appropriate.

During the debate I made a number of remarks about the mayor of Southern Downs Regional Council. I regret that I did so. I withdraw those comments and apologise to her. I express my great concern that council and the state government could be doing a lot more to help Granite Belt Water Relief. I table the letter I received in reply from the Premier.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 September 2019, from the Premier and the Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, to the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, regarding drinking water to residents in the Stanthorpe area [1908](#).

I ask that the Premier reconsider on the basis of the request being for water for those out of town. I will be very happy to assist in any way I can to put government in touch with this particular charity to assist it in its great work for those desperate people who need water for their stock and for their tanks.