




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Nanango Electorate, Reef Regulations

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.14 pm): On Tuesday, 9 February over 200 people attended a meeting in Kingaroy to understand how the looming reef regulations will affect primary producers across the Burnett and South Burnett region. I was so pleased to be able to attend the meeting and I want to emphasise that this was the biggest turnout so far of any of the consultations held in any of the reef catchments from the cape down about these impending regulations. The turnout really demonstrated the high level of anxiety and concern in this community. Every primary producer in the South Burnett and western Gympie regions of the electorate will be affected by these regulations. I commend those who attended and asked excellent questions about how these regulations will be implemented and what level of compliance will be undertaken.

My community also challenged the strange scenario where the rules are different for each producer depending on whether you are growing a commercial crop or growing a fodder crop, not to mention that there will be a fee of up to \$870 just to apply. Above everything else, the main question was why is the South Burnett region even included in this legislation—and I ask on their behalf—and how often does water from the South Burnett and west Gympie regions actually reach the ocean? It was a question that representatives from the Office of the Great Barrier Reef were simply unable to answer. When these laws moved through the parliament in September 2019, the LNP proposed amendments to introduce at least a 10-year grace period for the Burnett-Mary catchment area, but that was rejected by the Palaszczuk government. I appeal again to the Palaszczuk government: please reconsider removing or delaying these regions of the South Burnett and western Gympie areas from the reef regulations. These one-size-fits-all regulations should not be imposed on primary producers in these areas.

I also want to mention my recent visit to the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. The Cherbourg community is located within my electorate and it was so great to catch up with Mayor Elvie Sandow, Deputy Mayor Tom Langton, CEO Zala and council staff Sam Murray, Edwina Stewart and Sean Nicholson. It was excellent to hear about their future plans for Cherbourg and to see the work being undertaken to revitalise the township, including the well developed vision for the new council administration building. As they have described it, this will be a game changer for the community. It has been designated as a priority project for the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils and will provide new space and new hope for Cherbourg. Given that Mayor Elvie has given up her office so other staff can have an office, I will be backing this project.