




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

South-East and Western Queensland, Weather Event; Member for Southern Downs

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.49 pm): Queensland truly is a state of great diversity and we have been reminded of that over the last few days in relation to the rainfall we have seen across some parts of this great state. We have seen extraordinary rainfall events in the south-east and there are currently 11 dams at more than 100 per cent and spilling. This weather event has both been welcome and tragic. I offer my condolences to the family of David Hornman who we have learnt lost his life in the floodwaters at Canungra Creek.

Further to the west on the Southern Downs, we are grateful to hear that Storm King Dam and Connolly Dam in the Southern Downs have hit 100 per cent. EJ Beardmore Dam near St George has also reached full capacity. In the words of the Southern Downs mayor, Vic Pennisi, 'It hasn't rained money, but it has rained hope' for farmers and the community. I know many primary producers have also seen run-off on their on-farm dams and this has brought much relief as we enter the winter season. However, the rain has not fallen everywhere. Just weeks ago, the Wivenhoe Dam was at its lowest since 2009, sitting at only 36 per cent capacity. The recent inflows into Wivenhoe Dam are welcome, but they will not be enough to top up the dam to satisfactory levels. It has only risen by one per cent.

In my electorate of Nanango where Wivenhoe is, there has been little to no inflow at Boondooma Dam, which is currently sitting at around 27 per cent, and Bjelke-Petersen Dam, which is sitting at a low nine per cent. A bit further north at Paradise, there has been a slight increase of six per cent, but we have to bear in mind that this is at the reduced level after those opposite decided that in the middle of a drought it would be a good idea to let 100,000 megalitres go down the drain. We know that is what they have done to lower this wall. It is only the LNP that understands the importance of water and water storage across this great state of ours.

In the short amount of time left, I would like to pay tribute to the member for Southern Downs, James Lister, for the stance that he has taken in relation to mental health here in this chamber as a leader in Queensland. It will bring great awareness of this issue to men and women, but particularly to a lot of men in our regional areas. For too long, country men have not felt as though they could speak up about this insidious disease, so I am very proud to be a friend and colleague of James Lister and his family, and I wish them all the best for his recovery.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!