



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Nanango Electorate; Beef 2021

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.12 pm): There is a young couple in Kilcoy who are building their first home. This is a major achievement for these 21-year-olds who should be happy and looking forward to moving into their first home. They did not know how hard that journey was going to become after they applied for a simple water connection to their home. Some five months after first contacting my office in complete frustration, they still do not have water connected to their home.

Sadly, they are not alone. There are 14 other Kilcoy families who are trying to build in Kilcoy but cannot get their water connected. One would think that a water connection should be quite simple on a town block. It is something that we all have access to and should enjoy here in Queensland. It is not the case if your land is on a state controlled road and you need to deal with Queensland Urban Utilities and Transport and Main Roads. The hurdles that have been put in the way of these families are extraordinary. The stalling may also result in these families missing out on their much needed HomeBuilder grants. This is at a time when we know there is a housing affordability crisis and people are having trouble seeking rental accommodation in our country areas.

This is a case of red tape completely blocking the way of people who are trying to get ahead and make a new start. The basis of the problem is the application of the South-East Queensland Water Act 2009. It centres on a disagreement between TMR and Urban Utilities to enter into written consent for carrying out the water connection. As the distributor retailer, Urban Utilities must make an application to carry out works on a state controlled road and obtain TMR's approval. Despite TMR's in-principle support in February, the matter still remains unresolved.

On 5 May the Minister for Water wrote to the developer directly after my lobbying and admitted a breakdown in the process had led to the Kilcoy housing development and other developments being stalled. It is simply astonishing that the government could hold up this development project for this amount of time during the current affordability crisis, let alone any other time. It is no wonder we have this issue in our regional towns. In fact, it is all across Queensland. It is great to see one of the ministers in the chamber. Hopefully he will do something about it.

I want to give a massive thank you to Bryce Camm, Grant Cassidy and everyone up at Beef Week. What a fantastic week. My voice is still recovering. I also give a big shout-out to the Preston State School, one of my great local schools, that took out some ribbons. The smiles were all over their faces. To all the agtech producers, beef producers, manufacturers and everyone within regional Queensland who loves a good steak, eat more beef!