




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Queensland Floods

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.55 pm): The recent floods have been devastating. I am greatly encouraged by the incredible support that Queenslanders have offered each other in these difficult times—the Mud Army 2.0, the volunteers, the strangers who have come to help neighbours, the rural fire brigades. There are many who have come to help their fellow man during this period of time.

Floods this summer season have impacted communities like Dallarnil, Inglewood, Goondiwindi, Mungindi, Thallon, Gympie, Goodna, Ipswich, Maryborough—twice—and many other communities in between. The capital city, Brisbane, has been impacted only 11 years on from the last event.

While the government reflects on the tragedy that has unfolded, it must also reflect on how, after this event, the community is built back better to withstand the next event. Queensland is the most disaster prone state. This needs to change to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state. If history tells us anything, floods like we saw in the last few weeks will happen again. That is why it is vitally important we do not continue to build infrastructure back at the same location to the same standard and expect a different result at the next event.

These disasters take a real toll on people whose homes, businesses and livelihoods are lost. It is the state government's job, working in conjunction with our local councils, to make betterment projects and mitigation options an absolute priority. Unfortunately, we are not out of the flood season yet. I remind people that the Charleville 1990 flood was in April.

There are three distinct priorities when it comes to preparation for future flood events—that is, early warning, mitigation and betterment. Mitigation and betterment can be done. The LNP demonstrated that when it was in government. The LNP built levee banks in St George, Eulo and Wyandra. Working in partnership with council, they funded the Roma levee bank and drainage system that has been engaged a number of times and prevented flooding in that community. The diversion channel is quite impressive. It is impressive to see water flowing through that rather than flowing through the floorboards and yards of people's homes.

Mitigation and betterment projects make a massive difference to the lives of flood impacted people and the commerce of their communities and local councils. Gayndah is a very good example. The water treatment plant was raised higher. It safeguarded the town's water supply so they can have clean, fresh water. It saved the council having to scramble to find a temporary solution each time the pump was damaged. Betterment projects need to be kickstarted to make Queensland the most resilient state. It will also help drive down the costs of insurance which continue to rise after successive events.