




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Warrego Electorate, Flooding; Southern Queensland, Weather Event; Inner-West Primary School

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.29 pm): I extend my condolences to the family and friends of those who have tragically lost their lives in floodwaters. The residents of Dalby in my electorate had a nervous night this week with floodwaters peaking just under the 2010 flood height. Unfortunately, eight homes were flooded above the floorboards and approximately 2,000 properties had water impacting their households. Six businesses were impacted, including the Dalby Shoppingworld centre, and the business damage assessments have already come in at over \$800,000 and are increasing.

I have been on the ground in other flood-prone areas of South-East Queensland. The Mount Crosby water treatment plant is a critical part of the water supply for Brisbane residents, supplying about 50 per cent of the drinking water for Brisbane. The pump station went under water in the 2011 floods and it is still waiting to be moved to higher ground. Eleven years on and another flood, and the pump station has still not been relocated by Seqwater. It is critical for clean drinking water in Brisbane during flood events.

The existing Mount Crosby Weir bridge also went under water. It has sustained extensive damage making it an even greater priority for a new bridge to be built. When Colleges Crossing is cut and the Mount Crosby Weir bridge is out, communities of thousands of people in suburbs such as Karana Downs and Mount Crosby are isolated for days. In the recent flood the local state member, the member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan, and Councillor Greg Adaman, along with helicopter owner James Robinson, organised food and medical drops into these and other cut-off communities. Residents need food drops in floods even just 30 kilometres from the CBD because the state government has not addressed the bridge infrastructure at Colleges Crossing or the Mount Crosby Weir bridge. Both are state government responsibilities.

We heard a fair bit from the education minister about wanting to rebuild and flood mitigate our schools. A good start would be to not put the new inner-west primary school right in a flood zone. The Toowong Bowls Club site, which I have visited, flooded significantly in the recent event and, making it worse, the sewage treatment plant beside the bowls club flooded and raw sewage spilled into Perrin Park and into the club. The park is still closed. The state Labor government's priorities are absurd when it comes to wanting to put schools in flood zones where there are significant sewage risks. It is not the right place for a school.