




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Warrego Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise to inform the House of the state of the roads following successive wet weather events across my electorate. We have not just had one event; the Balonne shire has had five floods. The shire was disaster activated for 301 days out of 344 days in the 2021-22 financial year. The wet weather and floods have taken a toll on the electorate's roads. The impact on the roads has been compounded by the Palaszczuk Labor government's deferred road maintenance backlog of \$1.3 billion in the Darling Downs south-west region. The roads were not in a good condition prior to these events. Disappointingly, the Labor government has no plan to address this maintenance backlog.

Further, if the government had not wasted \$237 million on a mothballed quarantine facility at Wellcamp, it would have the funds to repair and raise the culvert 38 kilometres south of Dirranbandi on the Castlereagh Highway. This road has been closed for 64 days from December to May. Frank Deshon's business stands to lose \$15,000 a day in revenue due to this road closure. He said, 'It's an absolute disgrace. The road is closed and they can't repair a pothole with less than 20 centimetres of water. I bet that if George Street were closed for 64 days it would be fixed in a jiffy.' I table a photo of the culvert.

Tabled paper: Photograph of a culvert [1178](#).

Further, there is the Roma Condamine Road 12 kilometres west of Condamine. I have just driven along this road and agree with Luke and Jennifer Philp, who wrote to me describing this road as a goat track. There would be bicycle tracks in the minister's electorate that are wider than this road. If this Labor government had not wasted \$237 million on Wellcamp, it would be able to widen the road and support the millions of dollars of beef and grain production and resources in the area. This area contributes millions in revenue to the state government. It deserves its fair share to be spent on widening this road—not taxpayers' money wasted on 'Wastecamp'.

Then there is the Jackson Wandoan Road Tchanning Creek crossing at Noonga. I table a photograph of the couple's brand new ute and caravan washed off the Tchanning Creek crossing this year. They were lucky they were not drowned.

Tabled paper: Photograph of a flooded road and semi-submerged vehicle towing a caravan [1179](#).

What did the government say when I sent these pictures? 'It's a priority, however we are in the process of identifying funding opportunities to construct an upgrade.' Maybe if the government had not wasted \$237 million on 'Wastecamp' it might have the taxpayers' money to invest in upgrading the Tchanning Creek crossing. Queenslanders deserve better.