




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Nanango Electorate, Weather Event

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.12 pm): On the night of 7 January this year communities in the northern section of my Nanango electorate were hit by the full force of ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth. In the darkness of that night, fast-moving major floodwaters consumed Woolooga, Kilkivan, Tansey, Goomeri and Boobyjan. By the early morning of 8 January the region was realising that a flood greater than the 2013 flood was upon them.

Landholders in this area have suffered terrible damage including loss of livestock, equipment and crops. Tragically, 14-year-old girl Krystal Cain, who had been travelling in a car with her dad through the Boobyjan area, was swept away and lost her life. Her father, Lenny, was rescued the following morning. Many more people travelling on that night were caught by the quick-rising floodwaters. Another father and his daughter spent two nights clinging to a tree at Boobyjan and two families spent a night in a small tinny tied to a power pole at Woolooga.

I want to take this opportunity to mention many local landholders who helped rescue these people. I thank Ken and Julie Thompson, Tom and Nichole Gould and their children, Dan and Gemma Van Itallie, Chris and Phil Stanford and the Stanton family. Their stories of bravery are remarkable and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. One couple who was rescued by the Gould family wrote to me the following—

I just wanted to express our gratitude to your wonderful community for coming to our rescue during the recent floods. We were fortunate to have been rescued by a local family ... using their tractor. They provided us with a safe place to stay until we were flown out ... by Lifeflight. With limited fuel, food and water and no power they generously shared their limited supplies with us.

May I also thank the police and emergency services, who worked so hard in the days after the flood in the search for Krystal Cain. The area was described by police as a war zone. I especially want to give a shout-out to our local police officer Dave Gillies; he is a hero. Conditions were extremely difficult and unfortunately Krystal has not been found. She is now listed as a missing person and my heart goes out to her family for the loss they have suffered. May she rest in peace.

This is the third flood in 11 years for this community. An extraordinary amount of water flowed into this catchment, with 946 millimetres falling within 48 hours. I say thank you to the member for Gympie, Tony Perrett, and his wife, Michele, who kept those communities along the Boonara Creek updated with rainfall totals from their property, which is located at the headwaters. Without that informal bush telegraph, there would have been no way for those landholders downstream to know that this 11.4 metre wall of water was on its way. That is because there are no flood warning gauges on that Boonara system, and I will have more to say about that.