



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**North-West Queensland Floods**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.30 pm): The monsoon events before Easter in the north-west of the state have been some of the worst in living memory. The Premier needs to go and see this devastation for herself. Burketown, Doomadgee, Normanton and many other towns had been cut off for months prior to the monsoon floods. The Premier needs to see this. These communities were under pressure of isolation prior to the deluge that flooded into Doomadgee and Burketown and devastated surrounding rural properties. I want to thank the Burke and Doomadgee mayors, councillors and CEOs for their advocacy regarding the disaster events and the work that they do to keep their community safe. I have just met with the mayor, Ernie Camp; the deputy mayor and the CEO of the Burke shire. I will table some pictures of the road damage in the gulf, something that the Premier should go and look at herself.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs depicting flood damage to roads in the gulf [524](#).

The differences are stark in the gulf. If 1,200 people were at risk of inundation in the south-east I am sure they would not have to go and organise a local farmer to fly a helicopter over the headwaters as they did over the Nicholson River in the Northern Territory to determine if the community would flood. That is what the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council had to do.

Speaking of flyovers, whilst the member for Lockyer and I were on the ground with Tim and Jil Wilson of Tirranna Springs Road House, the Deputy Premier flew over us. All of the Wilsons' houses and buildings, motel infrastructure and machinery was flooded. They had to be evacuated several times, first from Tirranna and then again from Burketown as the town was inundated. They are key businesses for the recovery in the area and to date, Tim and Jil are still waiting for help from the state and federal governments.

The Premier should go to Tirranna Springs Road House and listen to Tim and Jil and see for herself the devastation and the loss. It is just unbelievable what that water did when it went through that area. The Deputy Premier should tell us how many flooded homes and businesses he visited in Burketown after his flyover and whether he will ever visit Tirranna Springs.

The councils want resilient works to raise crossings and bridges, and I have seen firsthand how dangerous the crossing is on the Gregory River leading from Burketown to Doomadgee. The people of the north-west need help. The councils are calling for a \$75 million investment in roads and bridges. These gulf communities deserve better from this Labor government.