




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Local Government, Gravel Pits

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.54 pm): Queensland councils have been meeting for months with the Palaszczuk Labor government about the gravel shortage. Councils cannot get access to existing gravel; nor can they afford to absorb the increased costs associated with carting gravel longer distances. Councils do not need more meetings; they need a solution. They need a timely, cost-effective process for the renewal of quarry sales permits. The Etheridge Shire Council has to negotiate for 201 quarries, whilst the neighbouring shire of Croydon requires negotiations for 160 quarries and the Carpentaria shire requires negotiations for 64 quarries. In the North West Queensland ROC area, which is 11 councils, 686 quarries are impacted. In the Central Queensland RAPAD council area, 236 quarries are impacted. In the South West Queensland ROC area of the six shires in my electorate, 236 quarries are impacted. That is a total of 1,069 gravel pits from which councils cannot access gravel.

Councils are experiencing major cost increases, delays and job losses. All of this results in an overall dislocation of council work programs. They are not alone. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is also impacted by this impasse. We have heard from the minister. He says that he is talking to councils and to the department about the challenges. He does not act; he just talks. He cannot talk his way out this one. His government needs to deliver a solution. Minister, the time for talk is over.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Direct your comments through the chair please, member.

Ms LEAHY: The time for talk is over. It is time to stop the uncertainty for councils and let them get on with the job of the repairing their roads and infrastructure. We know that road users in the outback are five times more likely to die on the roads than metropolitan users, yet we have a Labor government that sits on its hands when it comes to councils accessing gravel to fix the roads. The Labor government is giving councils gravel rash and leaving them in the slow lane.

Not only does this Labor government frustrate councils with their Labor government generated gravel shortage; they do not stand up to their Labor mates in Canberra. Of the 90-day review of the infrastructure projects, 23 of these projects are local government led. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of road projects are captured by the federal Labor government's 90-day review. This review has now blown out to a 120-day review. We know what a 90-day review is: it is just code for funding cuts to Queensland. We have not heard much from the Minister for Transport about the billions of dollars of road funding captured in the review, but I have no doubt that if there were an LNP government in Canberra he would have put Twitter into meltdown after 120 days.

Labor does not like local governments. It frustrates them with gravel supplies and rips hundreds of millions of dollars in road funding from them. Local governments and Queenslanders deserve so better than these federal and state Labor governments.

(Time expired)