



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Warrego Electorate, Flood Mitigation**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.13 pm): The last summer has certainly provided its flood challenges for many communities in my electorate. However, communities like Charleville, Augathella, Cunnamulla, Roma and St George have continued on with their day-to-day lives due to the levee banks that are protecting homes and businesses from floodwater. The flood diversion channel to the east of Roma has been engaged three times this year. This channel and the levee bank system protects over 400 homes from floodwater going over floorboards. This is flood mitigation built by the LNP when in government, working in partnership with the Maranoa Regional Council. Roma received 70 millimetres of rain overnight in a very wet catchment. However, the flood system did its job. Although there was a little bit of local water around, there was no water over floorboards, which was really pleasing to see.

The frequent floods that caused disruptions, cut people off and threatened homes are now fortunately a memory for this community. Roma is in a much better position now than it was prior to the levee bank being built. This water continues onto St George, which also has a levee bank protecting that town. This is flood mitigation that was, again, built by the LNP when in government, in partnership with the Balonne Shire Council. The Bollon flood levee was also a product of the LNP when in government, and this levee has again proved itself and protected that town. As the waters move their way through the river system, the levee keeps the St George businesses and homes safe from floodwater. In some parts of the town the levee just looks like an ordinary block wall; however, it works.

There is a similar story in Charleville. Charleville has a Bradley's Gully diversion system and a levee bank that protects the town from the Warrego River when it floods. I will table a photograph of the closing of the levee in Charleville.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting a levee in Warrego [621](#).

This levee was closed not so long ago and was tested recently, and it protected the town and the businesses from flooding. This water now moves downstream past Wyandra and Cunnamulla, whose communities again are protected by levee banks. The Wyandra levee bank was built by the LNP when in government, in partnership with the Paroo Shire Council.

Levee banks work. They reduce the risk of flooding and they also protect communities from the economic disruption caused by floods. I find it hard to point to a levee bank that the Labor government has actually built in Queensland over the last 10 years. They promised one in Bundaberg, and that has blown out in cost from \$80 million to \$175 million. The reality is that levee bank announcements do not stop water from going over the floorboards; you actually have to build those levee banks. That is the difference between the LNP and the Labor government. Queenslanders certainly deserve better and they should show Labor the door in '24.