




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Calliope State School; Fire Ants; Beef Week

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.14 pm): Today, on behalf of the Calliope State School and the Calliope community, I tabled a petition with over 500 signatures calling on the government to fix the disaster that is the Calliope State School pick-up and drop-off zone. The Calliope community is a fantastic and proud community, and the families behind the school and the teachers and staff at the school do a fantastic job advocating on behalf of the students to ensure they have quality facilities as well as educating their students very well. They do a great job. For many years they have pleaded with the government to fix the Calliope pick-up and drop-off zone but, unfortunately, to date it is still a disaster. It sits on the Dawson Highway. Many cars queue there whilst heavy trucks come and go, some loaded with explosives as they head out to the mines. This is a critical issue for the Calliope State School.

Given that the budget will be delivered in only a few weeks, I call on the government to take note of that petition and ensure funds are allocated to fix this problem. It is a student safety issue that the community of Calliope has been fighting for resolution of for a very long time. I am not going to give up this fight until we see the problem fixed because the Calliope community need it and deserve it. With this petition, they have put their name to saying that they need it and they absolutely deserve to get it.

On another note, fire ants are now on the doorstep of the Callide electorate. When I came to this parliament, not that long ago, they were hundreds of kilometres away. Now they are tens of kilometres from the electorate of Callide and that is an absolute disgrace. The minister for agriculture has been responsible for the department overseeing the so-called Fire Ant Eradication Program that has not eradicated fire ants. It does not even come close to eradicating fire ants. They have spread at an alarming rate. I tell you now, if we get a flood and they end up going down the Murray-Darling Basin it is all over, Rover. There would be no getting them under control then.

We need to get this program under control now. The Labor government has failed it for many years, for far too long, and the current minister for agriculture has been responsible for this program for years and years. He is incompetent, he is incapable and he should not be a minister at all, let alone the member for Ferny Grove. Nelson Savanh is a great candidate for Ferny Grove. I will back him every day of the week to win at the election and see this minister sacked from the parliament.

On a lighter note, Beef Week is next week in Central Queensland and it is going to be a fantastic event. If you are not doing anything next week, make sure you get up and get a steak into you. Come and celebrate all that is beef in Central Queensland. If you have had a great steak lately, I dare say it has come from the electorate of Callide. Get some more steak on your plate and have a good time next week at Beef Week.