




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): Western Queensland is still struggling with the impacts of once-in-a-generation flooding. This morning I visited Longreach to see firsthand the impact of the devastation. Locals are reporting that heavy rain fell again around large parts of the region in the last 24 hours. For our farmers, rain is usually welcome, but with flooding already covering such a large part of the state, more rain means the creeks and rivers are swelling once again. Nine rivers and creeks are now experiencing major flooding, including record flooding in the Bulloo and Paroo rivers. Towns like Thargomindah, Eulo, Hungerford, Jundah and Quilpie remain isolated. Some properties have become islands, completely surrounded by water. Many Queenslanders will not be able to return to their homes for days or weeks. This morning I met some of those brave Queenslanders.

Minister Perrett and I were able to survey some of the damage from the air this morning. As of yesterday afternoon, more than 3,500 kilometres of fencing has been destroyed due to the floods. Over 4,700 kilometres of private roads have been damaged; that is more than the drive from Brisbane to Perth. Almost 150,000 cattle, sheep and goats have been lost—a devastating loss for Queenslanders whose livelihoods are built on livestock. Sadly, that number will rise further.

Planes and private helicopters continue to work on resupplying fuel and fodder, and they are doing a mighty job. These efforts are critical. Our graziers need support and, above all, they need hope. We have already activated disaster grants for our primary producers to help with the cost of replacing equipment, buildings and livestock. Primary producers are the backbone of Western Queensland. This funding will help them get back on their feet.

Later today the government will move a motion which will acknowledge Queenslanders who are suffering, as well as those who have assisted in the response and recovery. We will be with them every step of the way, just as we did in the north and just as we did in the south. We are here for the long haul.