




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.49 pm): Time and time again, Queensland has experienced record rainfall and disaster events that have been unsurpassed. This last week has brought torrential rain, re-creating our ancient inland sea. People of the bush welcome the rain and the Channel Country is at its most picturesque with some overland flow, but people of the bush will be the first to say they never want too much rain.

The country's topography and watercourses cannot keep pace with the massive inundation they have experienced, and this has isolated communities and damaged properties. This will continue for some time as the massive amounts of water meander slowly downstream. Make no mistake: this inland sea re-creation is not a thing of dreams; it is one of nightmares. The heartbreak and the anguish of the bush was laid bare to this chamber through the member for Gregory's poignant contribution to this place yesterday when he quoted Adavale resident Emily Green.

The loss of livestock is six figures and growing—the heartbreak being retold as the wool did not come off the backs of sheep, a devastating impact felt twice as deep. The massive loss of livestock is heartbreaking. They are succumbing to this water, getting stranded and stuck in muddy quagmires—or they may perish in the elements to come. The loss of stock and property—seeing the product of your blood, sweat and tears washed away—is devastating. The emotional and psychological impact of these events cannot be underestimated, and I encourage anyone who needs specialist disaster counselling to reach out to the dedicated Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 116 671.

While our western communities may be small in size, they are mighty in their contribution to our state and we are united and resolved to see them back on their feet as soon as possible. I acknowledge the vast number of local government areas that have been affected by this event, including their local government representatives and council staff, for their critical and tireless response. I also acknowledge the first responders who have, once again, been outstanding. In remote areas such as these impacted by this event, the whole community wraps around one another in every imaginable way. To those everyday heroes who have stepped up and stepped in, we say thank you.

Western Queenslanders have hearts of gold. Despite being a south-easter born and bred, it is in Western Queensland that I have shorn a sheep, harvested crops and drunk beers with some of the best Queenslanders I have had the privilege of meeting. That heart, resolve and larrikinism is something that I personally love so much and will no doubt be key to getting them through the toughest and most gruelling days ahead. To Western Queenslanders I say: we all stand with you through the long days of responding to this event and the very long days of recovery to come.