



Speech By
Sean Dillon

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Taylor, Mrs V; Natural Disasters, Recovery

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (9.11 pm): At the outset of my contribution tonight I would like to place on record the tremendous achievements of a now retired member of Queensland Health who served her last day in the domestic stream and has worked for 55 years as a cook. Mrs Vera Taylor is a tremendous stalwart in her community in the Central West but, more importantly, a servant of those who are in need and caring. The special treats that Vera has prepared over 55 years, some of which perhaps the matrons did not always approve of, will be sorely missed by the residents of the Alpha community and those who have unfortunately had to reside there for a short period of time or in the aged-care section for a protracted period.

I would like to use my remaining two minutes to update the House with respect to the severe flooding that affected Central West and North-West Queensland. At the outset, I thank the Premier, the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Disaster Recovery for their tireless efforts, which commenced on or around 28 or 29 December variously and stretched through until this point in time, when communities were severely isolated, houses were inundated in some areas, rural properties were severely isolated and massive numbers of infrastructure and livestock were affected. I am sure the Minister for Primary Industries will continue a watching brief for both the north-west and the central west as it is an evolving situation in what is still the mid part of our wet season.

There were people in places like Winton, Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Clermont who were isolated, who had water in their houses—people like Vance—and who had to wait a number of days for the water to go down to commence the clean-up. Crisafulli government members and the member for Burdekin and Minister for Natural Resources were there on the ground within hours of the floodwater receding to ensure there was no daylight between disaster and recovery.

The communities of North-West Queensland and the Central West are starting to recover, but they still stink of rotting vegetation and are surrounded by devastation, with fences horizontal, internal and external roads to their properties completely destroyed and vast numbers of livestock either dead, dying or washed away.

This place seems so removed it is almost surreal—I am sure the Minister for Primary Industries shares that with me. When you come back to a place as pristine and as perfect as this, it is hard to imagine standing in the paddocks as we did at the start of January—as well as the Minister for Local Government—and seeing the utter devastation that these property owners are experiencing. There will be more to see in this place, but certainly my thoughts and I hope those of this entire chamber are with those people as they commence their recovery.