



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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#### Gascoyne residents a tough bunch: Eggleston

9 February, 2011

Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston asked the Government not to forget the widespread destruction of cyclones and flooding in the Gascoyne region at the first sitting of Parliament yesterday.

The nation's politicians offered condolence motions for recent victims of natural disasters across Australia.

"As we try and rebuild homes and crops inundated by torrential rain and flooding in Carnarvon, we can relate first hand to the devastation felt in communities affected by the QLD floods and Cyclone Yasi," Senator Eggleston said.

"It is also important to recognise the impact on outlying pastoral properties in the Gascoyne and Murchison, which experienced major damage to homesteads, water infrastructure and loss of stock."

Senator Eggleston visited the region in late January with Liberal MP's Barry Haase and Julie Bishop and said it was heartening to see firsthand the steely resilience of locals, led by Shire President Dudley Maslen, when faced with the recurrent flooding of the Gascoyne River.

"I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Mark Lewis of the WA State Department of Agriculture for coordinating and managing the restoration of the top soil which had been washed away from the plantations on the Gascoyne River," Senator Eggleston told the Senate.

"We also pay tribute to the skilled emergency service workers and generous volunteers who selflessly put their hands up to help neighbours they had never met."

Surrounding North West communities held fundraising drives, delivered food, water and fuel supplies and organised skilled tradesmen to help with the relief effort, after the December floods.

After meeting local people and touring the region, Senator Eggleston said he experienced "a true insight into how Australians pull together in times of stress and adversity.

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