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## Lake Grace Floods

20th January 2006

Dr. Graham Jacobs, Member for Roe and a delegation of Liberal Members Paul Omodei, the Member for Warren-Blackwood with special interest in agriculture and water; Steve Thomas, the Member for Capel and interest in emergency services; Anthony Fels, Upper House Member for Agriculture Region visited the flood stricken Kulin and Lake Grace shires on a special charter flight. They negotiated the Lake Grace airstrip piloted by Mr. Ian Coxall from Bunbury Aero Club.

The Lake Grace township has been devastated by over 300 mm of rain last Friday and Saturday as a consequence of cyclone Clare.

"The town is still cut off from the east and west and in fact we needed to take a boat across Cemetery Lake, which has cut the road and rail west of the town. A farmer Dean Carruthers was good enough to ferry us across in his little launch".

[See Photos in Gallery](#)

"There is a need issue for some form of drainage of this lake into another so as to open the western access to Lake Grace. The main road hydrologists have considered this engineering option involving a large trench and hopefully this will happen quickly to solve an immediate problem", Dr. Jacobs said.

The delegation met with Shire CEO Mr. Chris Jackson, the Shire President Mr. Darcy Roberts, farmers and residents.

Dr. Jacobs said the damage had been devastating with damage of over 60 shire roads with over 500 km of road damaged in distance terms. The Telstra tower is under water making mobile communications difficult and patchy.

"We inspected the Lake Grace-Newdegate railway line, which has been extensively damaged. In fact, there is still a train stuck out on that line at Bunich".

The farming losses have not been totally quantified yet but early estimates will include more than 220 km fencing and stock losses of over 2000 heads mainly sheep.

One major loss has been the town dam, which has burst its bank and will need reconstruction in order for Lake Grace to face future summers.

Dr. Jacobs said it was clear that the chain of lakes which flows north joining the Lake Magenta-Newdegate railway chain, which both eventually feed into the Avon catchment, had been overtaxed with water and failed to drain quickly enough. Hopefully, the Government through Agriculture Department and Main Roads

Department will respond to improve those drainage problems for now and the future.

"The Government needs to also take the enormity of the damage on board and actually realistically quantify the damage. The road damage in the shire alone could amount to 5 million dollars".

Government Ministers need to get on to the ground and see for themselves, not fly over sheets of water with token interest. Because of the major damage to infrastructure in these areas, Dr. Jacobs called on the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Alannah MacTiernan to visit the areas affected as a matter of urgency.

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