



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Weather Events**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.30 pm): This is a season of disasters, and we have seen bushfires, cyclones, floods and severe storms—bushfires around the state in places like Tara, Wallangarra and many others. The rain from Tropical Cyclone Jasper has devastated North Queensland. Machans and Holloways Beach communities, Mossman, Mareeba, which had three feet of water down the main street, Wonga Beach, Degarra, Wujal Wujal, which was evacuated, and many others survived the cyclone only to be impacted by the unprecedented floods. Cyclone Kirrily flooded places like Tirranna Springs Roadhouse in the north-west, which was still recovering from the 2023 floods. No-one will forget the sight of Kynuna Roadhouse that was surrounded by water.

It was not just the north of the state. The storms that ripped through the south-east corner caused incredible devastation. The flooding also again impacted places like Laidley and across the Darling Downs at Warra. On behalf of the LNP I want to thank all of the first responders and the volunteers, the Ergon and Energex workers, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the rural fire brigades. I want to give a special shout-out to the member for Theodore, who wore out one chainsaw clearing the roads after the South-East Queensland severe storm.

I also want to thank the many mayors, councillors and local government staff who have been tireless in dealing with the disasters at the time and also their ongoing work during the recovery that in many cases is continuing. We are only just in February. We are only halfway through the disaster season. I hope many of these first responders and volunteers have a chance to catch their breath before we are faced with another disaster event.

These events have highlighted some of the shortcomings in the Labor government's disaster assistance to victims. Queenslanders are telling me that those who are homeless or living in a car due to the housing crisis are not in a position to receive the disaster assistance payments from the department of communities. They are really struggling to get those disaster assistance payments. These people are hurting yet they struggle to meet the assistance guidelines. Volunteers at the community recovery centre at Holloways Beach had to protect the community donations 24/7 from looting because that is what happens when there are fewer police and weaker laws in Queensland.

The Daintree and Cape Tribulation Road and the Bloomfield Track are a source of great frustration to the residents whose businesses rely on this essential road. Queenslanders are telling me the school buses are unable to operate, the tourists are unable to get through, and the local businesses and residents are very frustrated. That is not the only challenge the Douglas Shire Council have had. They have had to turn off the water to Port Douglas a number of times because of the boulders in the filtration system there that has been impacted by the flooding. Port Douglas businesses cannot operate without water and they receive little assistance for the business disruption. These are just some of the issues—

*(Time expired)*