



Speech By  
**Hon. Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Women**

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.14 am): As I look around this place I am very proud to see the number of women that we have sitting in the Queensland parliament. In October we saw the 110th woman elected to the Queensland parliament. Last Saturday was International Women's Day and across South-East Queensland there were many events planned that many females and males in this House were going to attend to celebrate International Women's Day. Many celebrations occurred more broadly across the state and we were privileged to host one in Cairns.

It is important that we take a moment to pause and reflect upon how far our state has come after the Elections Acts Amendment Act was assented to in 1905 granting Queensland women the right to vote in this state. I reflect on the first female member of this parliament: a conservative woman, Irene Longman, who was pioneering in her advocacy for women. She advocated for the appointment of female police officers, for equal pay for equal work, for female justices of the peace, for women to sit on juries and, most importantly, for protective legislation to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation.

Across our state, as we saw ex-TC Alfred impact our communities, I had the opportunity of being out and about meeting with many across our community. In the weeks prior to that I was up in Ingham. I want to pay tribute to the hardworking women of our community—those who were out restoring power, paramedics, police officers and those in our community recovery hubs and in our neighbourhood centres, where we saw an increase in funding for hardship and crisis payments. I would like to thank those women who are out there getting our community back on its feet.

I would also like to recognise Bernice Watson and many female members of our Parliamentary Service for their planning of the event that was meant to be hosted here at parliament but has been delayed. Thank you for the support of your office, Mr Speaker, and that of the Clerk. The women of parliament have done an incredible job in showcasing 110 women of our parliament. We thank not only them but also the women who support us in our life here at the parliament—our attendants, the women who clean our rooms, in catering, in the coffee shop, in the library and at the table—to do the job that we are so privileged to do.