




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Local Government; Volunteering

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.26 am): Just over 100 days ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted for a government that would deliver integrity and accountability in local government whilst enabling mayors and councillors to serve their community without unnecessary regulatory burden. They voted for a government that would ensure a swift recovery from disasters and one that would deliver more resilient communities and community infrastructure. What Queenslanders voted for the Crisafulli government is delivering. In a first for local government, we have established a Local Government Red Tape Reduction Taskforce 100 to streamline approvals and remove barriers for local government projects. Andrew Chesterman has hit the ground running as our taskforce lead, bringing with him over 30 years of professional and public administration experience.

The taskforce is currently considering more than 130 suggestions and over the next four weeks will be speaking with many more councils to garner feedback about burdensome red tape. Next week the taskforce will bring together Queensland government agencies and key stakeholders such as the LGAQ and the LGMA and drive the agenda of red-tape reduction across government. Councils and stakeholders have until the end of March to provide feedback to the taskforce. We will be looking closely at this feedback to identify opportunities that support efficient and effective council infrastructure and enable councils to provide service delivery to their communities. I look forward to receiving the recommendations of the taskforce later this year.

Turning to the issue of volunteering, you need only turn your attention to North Queensland to understand the vital contribution that volunteers make to our state. It is our job to understand what we can do to ensure volunteers have what they need to respond in the times of Queenslanders' needs. Last November we established a parliamentary inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. I have been engaging with volunteers and volunteer organisations and they are telling me there are a range of obstacles stopping people from volunteering. One of the issues that has come forward is the lack of banking services in regional communities. There are a range of solutions and we are committed to finding those solutions. Submissions close at the end of this month and I encourage anyone with a passion for volunteering to let us know how the Crisafulli government can remove those barriers and create clearer pathways for more volunteering. We want to make sure that anyone who has a passion to make a difference in their local community has every opportunity to become a volunteer. We want to make it easier for volunteers. The Crisafulli government is working in partnership with Queensland local governments to deliver for Queenslanders.