



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **South-East Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.19 am): Queensland's remarkable spirit and ability to respond and recover when faced with our unpredictable weather is unparalleled. I thank the thousands of Queenslanders who restored power, cleared roads, kept hospitals running and got our kids back to school. The wind has eased and the floodwaters are receding. We are committed to ensuring there is no daylight between response and recovery. The Crisafulli government has worked swiftly with the Commonwealth to activate vital support to the communities that need it most.

We are working quickly with all three levels of government to activate personal hardship assistance to communities in order to help Queenslanders get back on their feet. Personal hardship assistance is available to residents in the Redland, Gold Coast, Logan and Moreton Bay city councils as well as eligible localities in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area. Today I can announce that assistance has been extended to eligible localities in the Brisbane city and Scenic Rim regional council areas. Support includes grants of—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I am sure there are many people who would be interested in hearing this.

**Ms LEAHY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Support includes grants of up to \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for a family of five or more to cover essentials like food, clothing and medicine. As further impacts are identified we will extend this assistance to Queenslanders who need it.

I make special mention of our mayors and councils and the work they have done to support their communities. As they were faced with this weather event they worked around the clock to secure resources and mobilise volunteers to get their communities ready for what was ahead. For example, council workers and volunteers filled more than one million sandbags and I thank them for that effort. I also acknowledge the tireless worth of Alison Smith from the LGAQ and her advocacy and assistance with councils.

From the start, the Crisafulli government moved swiftly to ensure councils—the eyes and ears of our local communities—were equipped to deal with the weather. We pre-emptively activated critical disaster operations and repair funding to councils from Bundaberg to the border. I am advised that is one of the first times this has occurred. This funding helps support activities including sandbagging, evacuations, debris removal and emergency road repairs. As we move to recovery we will continue to engage with mayors and councils to help their communities rebuild. Recovery from this weather event will take some time, however, the Crisafulli government will not rest until we see things through.