




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.16 pm): The Crisafulli government is committed to getting Queenslanders back on their feet after ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the North Queensland floods. We are working with all levels of government to ensure these communities get the support they need.

This morning I joined the mayor of Ipswich to meet flood-affected residents and business in her part of the world. I am pleased to announce we have secured personal hardship assistance for eligible localities across the region. Assistance will also be extended to the entire Brisbane City Council, Somerset, Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley council areas and further localities on the Sunshine and Fraser coasts as our communities look to recover and rebuild. As we have always said, we will work with the Commonwealth government to roll out funding to more communities as councils, our eyes and ears on the ground, request it.

We know just how tough it is for small business, not-for-profits and primary producers when they are faced with these weather events. In Ipswich today I met with Terry and Bill from the local Men's Shed, who worked around the clock to get their tools and projects to higher ground, and Michael from Bailey's Brake & Clutch, who has been in business since 1982 and has witnessed every flood since. Thanks to the Queensland spirit today, it is business as usual for these people and I am very proud of them.

Today I am also able to announce disaster loans of up to \$250,000 for eligible small business and primary producers and up to \$100,000 for eligible not-for-profits to cover repairs and replacement of damaged goods and infrastructure. This assistance will benefit hardworking South-East Queensland businesses and services that are critical to our communities. While the cameras may have set up shop in the south-east, we want to make sure our North Queenslanders know that we are with them for the long run. As the member for Burdekin announced yesterday, disaster recovery packages worth more than \$50 million are now available to support North Queensland's full recovery from last month's devastating floods. I want to acknowledge the mayor of Hinchinbrook, who knows how much this will mean to the people of his region. His words about this announcement were: superb, amazing, thank you so much from our community.

We want the Hinchinbrook community and all of the impacted communities across the far north and south-east to know that the Crisafulli government will be right there with them in the recovery and for the long run.