




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (7.46 pm): I rise to support this motion which goes to the very heart of Queensland. The people of Western Queensland are tough and they have really proved it in the last week, and so have their mayors: Tony Rayner, Sally O'Neil, Ben Hall, 'Tractor' Ferguson and Suzette Beresford. Along with their councillors, CEOs and staff, they have been working around the clock to support their communities. They have had many nights without sleep as they have worked to keep their communities safe and fight back against the impacts of the flood disaster. I know 'Tractor' Ferguson has not slept in days, but he probably would not tell you that. Mayor Ben Hall has been coordinating Quilpie's response whilst housing the entire population of Adavale, where many have lost everything. At the same time, he has dealt with a flood in Eromanga and a flood threat to Quilpie.

I acknowledge all of our emergency service workers, frontline workers and rural landholders, some of whom have lost much of their properties and their stock. I have met fires and SES volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Residents tell me the swiftwater rescues in Adavale were nothing short of heroic. I pass on the thanks of 89-year-old Rob Savory to the SES members who washed out his muddy home in Eromanga. I acknowledge all of the chopper pilots who have been slinging fodder to stranded livestock, running supplies from property to property and doing river monitoring where the gauges have simply washed away. Their contribution to the disaster response and future recovery is critical.

We may never know all the names of the Queenslanders, the volunteers and the farmers who have rolled up their sleeves and muddied their boots with red dirt in this flood disaster. They have been sandbagging businesses and homes, desperately moving livestock to higher ground or simply doing the daily check on their neighbour. To the unknown Queenslanders pitching in during the western floods, I cannot thank you enough. For the communities in the Warrego electorate, from Eulo to Adavale, Thargomindah, Quilpie, Eromanga and Hungerford, which is still in the firing line, the Crisafulli government acknowledges and thanks you for your massive efforts.

We are not out of the woods yet. I have been there on the ground and I have stepped through the floodwaters and the mud with you. Be it in the north, the south, the east or the west of the state, we will be there with you for every step of the recovery journey.