



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2025

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

### **Western Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.09 pm): Warrego locals have rallied behind each other during this severe weather event. It is people like these—mates helping mates—who make these communities so special. But these communities are not out of the woods yet. More rain has drenched the Warrego catchment north of Charleville last night and into today. They are pushing up dirt in Hungerford, preparing for an unprecedented flooding event. There are many farmers who will be impacted along the way.

Frontline workers continue to work around the clock as communities respond to this devastating disaster. The Charleville airport is a hive of activity, with supply efforts that continue throughout the south-west, and the Cunnamulla airport is playing its part, as are those two councils. The workers out there are tired, but they keep working for impacted Queenslanders. Homes in Eulo have been inundated. Water unfortunately overtopped the levee bank and the community is now facing the clean-up and also being cut off from the community at Thargomindah. It is a priority of the Crisafulli government to raise the Eulo bridge and it is my priority as well.

In Thargomindah, the floodwaters have inundated the main street, the council chambers as well as dozens of homes. The destruction extends to Queensland's livestock. Across the region, our crucial cattle, sheep and goat industries, as well as our resources industry, have been impacted. We still do not know the full extent of the impacts on our opal-mining industry around the Quilpie area and also around the Yowah area. The stock losses are climbing into the hundreds of thousands and, as we heard earlier, they continue to rise.

Primary producers are faced with a long road to recovery. I want them and their communities to know that we will be there to support them through their recovery, every step of the way. I also know that with the loss of telecommunication services many primary producers are unable to complete their disaster assessments and surveys. If this is the case, I reach out to them and encourage them to get in touch with my electorate office. We will do what we can to support you as quickly as we can.

We will continue to work with all departments, all levels of government and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to ensure that Western Queensland can recover and rebuild. It will be a long road to recovery. I know that these floodwaters will not wash away our collective resolve. We will be there for every step of the disaster recovery journey. I also want to extend my thanks to the Premier, to the member for Gregory and to the Minister for Primary Industries for the way they have embraced my electorate and spent time out there with the people and the communities during particularly their time of need. I know that we will be heading back out to the likes of Quilpie, Eromanga and Thargomindah with the Minister for Primary Industries. I think that is a really important thing to do to show our support for those communities.