



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Weather Events, Recovery**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.06 am): The 2024-25 disaster season has seen our great state experience extensive natural disasters in the north, the south, the west and the east of the state. Some 73 of Queensland's 77 local government areas have been activated for support under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Tens of thousands of Queenslanders have been affected by these events in North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Western Queensland and here in the south-east. More than a century of flood records have been broken in many regions. Some locations have received more than a year's worth of rain in just days. Hundreds of homes were swamped in the north. Thousands in the south-east lost power for days in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. In the west, flooding covered an area roughly the size of Victoria.

In the face of these challenges, the Crisafulli government swiftly activated joint state-Commonwealth disaster assistance. More than \$712 million in joint funding has already been established under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in 2024-25 to address all aspects of recovery. The current estimate of the cost of reconstruction for the 2024-25 season is in excess of \$2 billion, and that number continues to rise.

This is a mammoth task and it calls for experienced local people to help these communities through recovery. State recovery coordinators have been appointed for each of these three major events: Andrew Cripps in the north and far north of Queensland; Colonel Justin O'Connor (Retd) leads the response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred; and Stuart McKenzie OAM in Western Queensland. Each of these people brings a lifetime of local experience to their role. The state recovery coordinators have worked tirelessly for these communities, providing the Crisafulli government with strategic advice for the state's recovery plan.

In the midst of all of this, attention must also go to tourism recovery—a sector often deeply impacted and essential for long-term economic resilience. We have told the rest of the country and the world that this great state is open for business. The Crisafulli government has worked with Tourism and Events Queensland to deliver statewide initiatives and campaigns to support this crucial sector. Queensland is still the No. 1 place to visit. The grass is green out west and it looks spectacular. Many of our beaches are back and the Tropical North is continuing to offer the world-class experiences it is known for. They are all great places to visit. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring that disaster-weary communities will receive the assistance they need, and we will be with them every step of the way.