




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Security

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.51 am): The Crisafulli government's first budget is a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders. It lays the foundations for a fresh start that we promised the people of Queensland, and it includes water security and affordability. It is a budget that delivers almost \$38 million for crucial water security projects right across the state. We are delivering on the Water for Warrill business case. We have commenced the Barlil and the Cooranga weirs, and we are investing in new and upgraded weirs on the Thomson River and practical projects that support communities and infrastructure.

We are investing more than \$41 million over five years to deliver vital upgrades to water and sewerage infrastructure in remote Torres Strait communities, and we are investing to deliver water supply improvements in infrastructure upgrades in the communities of Aurukun, Kowanyama and Woorabinda because all Queenslanders, no matter where they live, should have access to clean drinking water.

To support our farmers, the backbone of Queensland, we are investing \$51 million to deliver a 15 per cent discount on irrigation costs for eligible irrigators. It is about helping and building Queensland's primary production to a \$30 billion industry by 2030.

This is what industry groups are telling us. The CEO of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Jo Sheppard said, 'The QFF welcomes the decision to extend the 15 per cent irrigator discount and appreciates the Crisafulli government, and in particular Minister Leahy, for their commitment to continue working with the QFF, our members and our Water and Energy Policy Committee to get this right for Queensland farmers.' Rachel Chambers, CEO of Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers, applauds the Crisafulli government's decision to extend the 15 per cent discount to eligible irrigators.

Where was the Labor Party when it came to water? It was the Labor Party who failed to deliver meaningful water infrastructure to the regions, even when they had a decade of being in government. It was the Labor Party who gave Queenslanders the most expensive water bills in the country. It was the Labor Party who knew about the Paradise Dam failure, yet they sat on their hands and they tore down a dam. They oversaw the blowouts in the billions and kept the figures hidden from taxpayers.

The Crisafulli government takes water security in our regions seriously and will be transparent with the costs. We are getting on with the job of safeguarding water supply for Queensland now and into the future.