



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Natural Disasters, Recovery**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.56 am): The 2024-25 disaster season threw more at Queenslanders than we have ever experienced before. From the tip of the cape to the southern border, Queenslanders' resolve has been tested. Homes and businesses were overcome by flooding and cyclone damage, leaving estimated reconstruction costs in the billions. Farmers' cane crops were decimated, and hundreds of thousands of livestock were lost to floodwaters in the south, but Queenslanders are tough and the Crisafulli government will be there by their side for the long haul.

In record time we delivered almost \$1.2 billion in disaster support, working with the Commonwealth, and we will continue to deliver this support as it continues to become available. This includes just last month an additional \$77 million for North Queensland's recovery efforts, with a focus on national parks, coastlines and catchments. An additional \$191 million is being delivered for Western Queensland, including funding for infrastructure and vital connection roads. At the heart of the Crisafulli government's recovery efforts are Queenslanders—the mums and dads whose small businesses get back on their feet in the wake of a cyclone, or the farmer with a glint in his eyes at the news that his road into town will be paved for the first time in his lifetime, or the council with a spring in its step at the prospect of finally having infrastructure that will withstand future events.

For a decade we saw decline under Labor when it came to roads and infrastructure in communities hit by natural disasters. The like-for-like approach to all infrastructure simply does not cut it. We need to ensure our communities are more resilient, and in 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering an additional \$40 million in the Queensland Betterment Fund. This fund will deliver projects that build more resilient communities and infrastructure that can withstand not just the last disaster but also the next one to come. It is part of our government's \$450 million commitment over five years for the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program. Queenslanders can rest assured that, whenever and wherever disaster strikes, the Crisafulli government will be there to support them with their recovery. It is a long road to recovery and the Crisafulli government will be there every step of the way.