



Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Local Government

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.03 pm): Queensland councils are facing the brunt of Labor's decade of decline. We saw councils treated like second-class citizens and it left councils with a very fractured relationship with the state government. I am proud to announce that in nearly 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queensland councils deserve. That is why we have signed the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, we have made Works for Queensland a permanent program and we have delivered councils' first red-tape reduction taskforce.

Unlike Labor's decade of decline, the Crisafulli government listens to our councils. We are now delivering a depreciation taskforce review to support councils in tackling the growing depreciation challenges, something Labor never did in 10 years in office. Leading the efforts is a 35-year local government and local finance expert Neil Castles, who will deliver a report by the end of the year. As the taskforce engages with local governments, I encourage councils to reach out and contribute to the taskforce with their suggestions. Like Queensland's 77 councils, I look forward to the report and the ways we can support councils going forward.

Continuing on our 10 months of delivery, I was proud to sign the rural and remote compact with the LGAQ in Blackall earlier this month, and I want to thank Mayor Martin, the compact guardians and the LGAQ. I would also like to mention the inspiring Youth Council at Blackall-Tambo council and I thank them for their efforts and for joining me. I say to the member for Gregory that I look forward to the Youth Council coming to state parliament later in the year. They will be absolutely thrilled to be here at state parliament to meet with their local representatives. I really look forward to meeting with the Youth Council again. They are young people who will be our future councillors in the Blackall-Tambo area. I want to commend them for what they have done. Their inspiration and the things they have given to their local council are particularly important for the livability of their area.

The compact represents 45 of Queensland's 77 councils and provides a direct and effective voice for our rural and remote communities so the decisions made in Brisbane can actually reflect the needs of rural and regional Queenslanders. Councils have suffered at the hands of Labor in their decade of decline, but I will continue to work in partnership with mayors, CEOs and councillors. We will deliver that fresh start for Queensland councils—all of this in just 10 months of delivery.