



Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gladstone, Deaths; Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.59 am): I extend my condolences to the Gladstone community and the families impacted. I also acknowledge the frontline responders who attended that tragic event in Gladstone.

We have heard a lot of talk about the North Queensland Cowboys this week. A true-blue LNP candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayde Chiesa, called for the Cowboys for many years. I am sure Wayde would love to have been at this year's Get Ready Queensland launch as Rugby League legend Johnathan Thurston kicked it off with the students of Kenmore State High School. The member for Moggill and I were proud to launch this year's Get Ready Queensland campaign. We know that Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the country, and I am sure everyone in this House has experienced that at some stage firsthand. That is why Get Ready Queensland is so important. Our resilience-building initiative helps communities prepare for severe weather.

Events launched in Brisbane and Townsville were followed by a regional tour, with a Get Ready Queensland team visiting some of our communities hardest hit by this year's record-breaking floods. We connected with Queenslanders from Cairns to Cunnamulla, supporting recovery efforts by helping build greater resilience for the coming disaster season. Community disaster preparedness is core to a more resilient Queensland, and as a government we are committed to driving this work forward. During the week, JT captivated the students of Kenmore State High School at the Brisbane launch and residents of Cunnamulla and Thargomindah in a visit to some of the most flood-affected areas of Western Queensland. This is part of Get Ready Queensland's increased efforts to ensure our disaster preparedness messaging is accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate.

I encourage all Queenslanders to take steps now to prepare for severe weather. Follow the three steps: to get ready; to know your risk; and to make a plan and pack an emergency kit. Queenslanders know better than anyone the need to be prepared for a disaster, and the three major events this year only reinforced our resolve. The weather does not plan, but you can. Throughout floods, cyclones and bushfires, I have been clear that the Crisafulli LNP government is in it for the long haul.