




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (6.16 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Police. Mr Speaker, 12 December is a day that those of us who live and work in the Western Downs will never forget. I wish to pass on my deepest sympathy to Rachel's family and friends, especially Judy, Wayne, Samantha McCrow and Rachel's dog Archibald. My deepest sympathy is with Matthew's family and friends, especially his triplet brother James, sister Hayley and parents Terry and Sue. Similarly, my deepest sympathy is with Kerry Dare and her family Corey, Renee, Rose and their friends and extended family. It is incredibly tough on the Dare family, particularly on Kerry. They have lost their rock in Alan. Alan Dare lived in the Warrego electorate about halfway between Tara and Chinchilla. Rachel and Matthew were police officers stationed at the Tara police station and Dalby in my electorate. I do not think there are words that can express what each of the families goes through every December or, for that matter, every day. There is never closure for them. They will never forget and their loss can never be quantified.

I am very disappointed with the behaviour and the politicisation the Labor Party is going on with here tonight. It is disgraceful. These police officers were young, energetic, athletic and greatly respected in their local community. What Labor is doing is totally disrespecting them. Mr Speaker, 12 December is still emotionally raw and always will be for these families and the community, which is why we choose respect over politics. No report will ever be able to fully explain the horrific incidents that occurred west of Wieambilla on the afternoon of 12 December 2022 which left six people deceased. It touched the soul of the nation. Police officers Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and their neighbour Alan Dare all lost their lives that afternoon.

Locals do not expect those types of events on Wains Road in the quiet rural area in the Wieambilla locality. Despite this, there are many well-meaning people who live in the Tara district who are working very hard to help that community grow from the events and the disasters that have impacted that district.

I also want to mention constables Keely Brough and Randall Kirk, who escaped under fire. Randall suffered a gunshot wound to the leg and Keely was able to hide in nearby bushland. It is important we ensure that they too continue to receive support, because what they experienced was horrific and will be with them for the rest of their lives.

There are 15 other police officers from Miles, Chinchilla, Dalby and surrounding stations who led the extraction team on the property whilst under fire. They too should be remembered for their incredibly brave efforts on that day. Many of these officers are known personally to me, and I want to place on record my greatest appreciation for the difficult decisions they had to take that day. I know of their actions and I have read how they were described in the Coroner's report.

Following the release of the Coroner's report, our hearts remain with the families of Matthew, Rachel and Alan. The Coroner's findings are a step forward from this tragic event—a difficult one, but an important step—and the Crisafulli government will carefully consider those findings. We will not seek to politicise the deaths of two police officers and a good Samaritan, just like Labor have tried to do with this motion.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members for Woodridge and McConnel, you have both had your opportunity.

Ms LEAHY: The State Coroner handed down his findings and recommendations on 21 November. The safety of frontline officers remains an absolute priority. We will calmly and methodically consider the Coroner's recommendations as we work through the detail in the report. We will not be rushed. We will back our police. We will keep working to deliver the resources and laws that they need.

(Time expired)