




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.41 pm): As summer begins, it is important to remember that, while we cannot predict the weather, we can be there for Queenslanders who need our support. That is why the Crisafulli government is working year round to support Queenslanders to get ready for a disaster and get through a disaster and the disaster recovery process. We are all too well aware that at this time of the year severe weather can strike. It is a case of Queensland being beautiful one day but difficult to predict the next—much like which day will be the Leader of the Opposition's last day in his job. The Crisafulli government is ready to support our communities across this state when severe weather strikes—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Order!

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned.

Ms LEAHY: The Crisafulli government is ready to support our communities across this state when severe weather strikes, whether it is in Coolangatta, Cooktown or Camooweal.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. If you did not hear, member for Greenslopes, you are warned. If there are any further outbursts, you will be removed.

Ms LEAHY: This includes activating disaster assistance for communities under the joint Australian Government-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. In response to the latest series of severe weather, 14 local government areas are already receiving some form of DRFA funding—an area stretching from the Southern Downs to the Central Highlands. Personal hardship assistance has also been extended to the areas hardest hit by severe weather, including Gympie, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Somerset and the Sunshine Coast. I want to give a shout-out to the local MP, Ariana Doolan, who joined me on the ground in her community. Disaster-affected Queenslanders are receiving that assistance at a time when cost-of-living relief is needed.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the team at the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and also the volunteers across the region for all of their hard work this year and for the coming season, as well as the various mayors and councillors who have worked collaboratively and speedily to answer the needs of their communities. Despite all of the good work being done to help Queenslanders, what has greatly disappointed me are the actions of the members opposite who have tried to politicise disasters. The former disaster recovery minister implied that suburbs were being activated for assistance based on which party represents them. Shame on her. She knows very well—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Ms LEAHY: Shame on her, Mr Deputy Speaker. She knows very well that the suburbs activated are reliant on council recommendation, not state government. In choosing to do this cheap political pointscoring, the member demeans not only herself but also the local governments that are on the front line helping Queenslanders recover.

Ms BOYD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw her comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment, I will seek some advice. The advice I have received is that it was not personal towards you.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me! We will have silence while we resolve this matter, please. Member for Warrego, you are an experienced member in this House. Was there anything personal included in that?

Ms LEAHY: Mr Deputy Speaker, if it helps the member, I will withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms LEAHY: The Crisafulli government will continue to deliver for Queenslanders. We will not let Queensland go back to Labor's decade of decline.