



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**North Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): Areas of North and Far North Queensland have been devastated by a combination of tropical low pressure systems and monsoonal rainfall in recent weeks. For many towns in North Queensland, February 2025 is now the wettest month in history, with record rainfalls. Paluma received over two metres of rainfall in February. To put that in perspective, that is double what Sydney gets in an entire year. Ingham—the town I was born and raised in—was among the worst affected areas. I saw water in places that I never thought I would see. Tragically, two people have lost their lives in Ingham and our thoughts are with their families and loved ones in what is a really tight-knit community.

Homes, businesses, community assets and critical infrastructure have been flooded, damaged or destroyed. Many communities were isolated for long periods of time, with no power or water, and roads were cut off. North Queenslanders have again shown us their resilience and the strength of their communities. They have banded together, with neighbours helping neighbours, mates helping mates and strangers helping strangers. On Thursday the government will move a motion to acknowledge those who have assisted in the recovery.

To our emergency services workers and their interstate colleagues who worked long and hard in difficult conditions responding to incidents and helping with the early recovery efforts, thank you. I would like to acknowledge all of the mayors and their staff in local government for their tireless efforts, not only to keep their communities safe but also for the help they gave to other neighbouring communities. I also thank the team in the State Disaster Coordination Centre who continue to work around the clock to support the response. I also commend the efforts of all the utilities workers, our community recovery staff and the volunteers who were often the first into many locations and then worked around the clock to restore power, water and communications and support the residents of impacted communities. Assistance from the Australian government has been critical to support evacuation, rescue and resupply of communities right across North Queensland. The Army's rapid deployment of the temporary bridge over Ollera Creek was nothing short of incredible, reconnecting Ingham after only days of isolation.

There will be tough times ahead but our government will continue to work closely with all communities through the long recovery from this event. I also want to support the people of North Queensland to make their own homes more resilient. We are already in negotiations with insurers and other levels of government to deliver a package to support home owners affected by the floods. I have spoken to impacted mayors and local MPs about a resilience package to get people back in their homes sooner. If we are to embark on this plan, we must secure agreement while people are in the early stages of recovery.

We must also make our infrastructure capable of withstanding events like this. I want to see our damaged bridges, roads and other infrastructure rebuilt to a better standard so it will be more resilient to future events. Discussions are well underway with Canberra for a betterment package of some substance and some size. Some good must come from this heartache. We know that recovery from this event is going to be long but we are doing everything we can to help North Queenslanders back on their feet. We will be here until the job is done.