




Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**  
**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2025

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Regional Queensland

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): I made a promise to Queenslanders that this government will listen to the voices from all communities. We committed to Queenslanders from every part of the state that we would listen to what is important to them. Across the last few months we have travelled to many cities and towns across our great state. We have spoken with and, most importantly, we have listened to Queenslanders. We have listened to Queenslanders who no longer felt safe in their homes and families that have lost loved ones. We said we would work tirelessly to make sure people felt safe in their homes and in their communities.

All Queenslanders can be assured that this government will give the Queensland Police Service the resources that it needs. In Mount Isa I met police officers who tirelessly protect and serve their communities. I announced the new Queensland Police State Flying Squad will be deployed to high-risk areas, starting in Townsville and Cairns. In Hervey Bay, we set in motion the tender processes for the Regional Reset and Staying on Track programs. These programs are at the centre of our plan to reform and rehabilitate youth criminals, to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. Just down the road in Maryborough, I was able to share with locals that we are delivering on our promise to upgrade the Bruce Highway and the dangerous Walker Street intersection.

In Toowoomba, Longreach and St George, I met local business owners. Small businesses are the heart of regional and rural communities. We want them spending more time servicing their customers—and that is why our government is removing red tape for small and family business. Last week in Rockhampton we announced we have secured funding to establish a new Academy for Health Sciences.

Sadly, many of the locals I have spoken to in recent months have been doing it tough, battling the impact of successive severe weather events. I spent time on the ground in Townsville, Ingham, Cardwell, Ayr, Giru, Hinchinbrook, Longreach, Quilpie and Winton, as well as so many suburbs across South-East Queensland in the lead-up to and after Cyclone Alfred. Hearing Queenslanders' stories firsthand is critical in supporting them through the response and recovery.

Finally, last week we unveiled the 2032 Delivery Plan. Our plan will make the games bigger than Brisbane. Our plan will deliver generational infrastructure not just in Brisbane but in the regions too. As the local member will tell you, the Rockhampton community is so excited about what the games will bring to their town. Upgrades to the Rockhampton Ring Road will improve transport connectivity. The railyards rejuvenation precinct will be home to a new athletes village which will later be transformed into housing for Queenslanders. We will boost capacity at Barlow Park in Cairns, driving even more tourism opportunities and supporting community grassroots sport.

In Townsville we are focused on ensuring the city's world-famous Strand waterfront is taken to the next level ahead of hosting the sailing. Mackay's Harrup Park will be ready to host cricket on the world stage and train the next generation of local cricket legends. In Toowoomba, a major upgrade will

transform the Toowoomba showgrounds into an Equestrian Centre of Excellence that will serve this proud community for generations to come. New mass transit all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport will mean the region can open its doors to more tourists, more employment and more opportunities. Our plan builds for our future, ensuring regional communities continue to benefit for decades to come.

This leads me to an exciting announcement I can make today in the House. On 14 April we will hold our next offsite cabinet meeting in the vibrant Redlands. Four years ago we were hosted at our first offsite shadow cabinet meeting by the then Chamber of Commerce president. Today that person is the proud member for Redlands. It was during the election campaign that I was introduced to sporting groups like the Redlands Tigers, who had a strong advocate pushing for better facilities for female change rooms. That person is now the member for Oodgeroo. It was in that community I met a father grieving the tragic loss of his son, daughter-in-law and unborn grandson. That person is today the member for Capalaba. I am looking forward to engaging with that local community and sharing with them how this government is working tirelessly to deliver on priorities and opportunities for Queenslanders wherever they live in this great state.