



Speech By
Wayde Chiesa

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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ADJOURNMENT

Hinchinbrook Electorate

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.09 pm): Winning the Hinchinbrook by-election was an honour. This is a region with vast opportunity, and I am immensely proud to represent it—and what a start to 2026 it has been! Over the last two months we have had cyclones and continuous rain threatening the region, and now more is forecast for this weekend. That is nothing new for North Queensland, but it has caused real concern for people who have the 2025 floods still fresh in their minds and with some families still living the aftermath.

I commend the councils of Townsville, Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook for the way they prepared and responded to keep their communities safe. Students are back at school, families are working hard and I have been focused on the practical issues that affect daily life in the electorate. As an example take Mount Spec Road—a vital lifeline for Paluma and Hidden Valley. I was up there in February speaking with local businesses and residents. After the damage from last year's rain event, locals have endured uncertainty and closures. It has impacted families, businesses, visitors and residents alike, costing time and money. It is a complex fix, but I am committed to being the community's voice and pushing for certainty and safety. It is a beautiful part of the world and I want locals and tourists back supporting those small businesses as soon as possible.

Then there is the backbone of our state—the Bruce Highway. Flood-prone sections near Ingham, including Gairloch and Seymour, were closed earlier this week. It reminds us how exposed we are when that link goes down. I have spoken with councils, transport operators and local businesses about the need to strengthen the resilience of that section of the road.

North of Townsville infrastructure has not kept pace with population growth and that has created daily traffic pressure points. This is not a luxury. It is essential for getting to work, getting kids to school and keeping communities connected. I am fighting for targeted upgrades that deliver for this community.

We cannot talk about Hinchinbrook without talking about Port Hinchinbrook. Locals are passionate about this jewel in the crown, and it was a pleasure to be there with the Premier two weeks ago to announce that works are commencing. This community deserves clarity, accountability, progress and, most importantly, delivery.

In the Herbert River region farmers are rightly frustrated. They tell me the region floods more easily, more often and for longer. Drainage systems built decades ago have not been able to be properly cleaned due to unworkable regulations from the former Labor government. That failure has hurt agricultural land and allowed floodwaters into low-lying areas.

There is a lot more to do. Hinchinbrook deserves a strong, prosperous future. I was elected to be a strong local voice, and that is exactly what I will continue to be. I am a fighter for safer roads, strong communities, a productive agriculture industry and a future that works for regional Queensland.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the Townsville Fire winning their fifth WNBL championship on Sunday. They are the state's most successful female sporting team, and the community looks forward to celebrating with them this weekend.