



Speech by

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LEADERSHIP; CYCLONE RONA

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): This morning I would like to speak to the House about extraordinary leadership in times of trouble. I refer not to the leadership of individuals but leadership that can be provided to a community by organisations in times of strife. Honourable members are well aware of Cyclone Rona and the tremendous threat that it presented to Cairns and the surrounding area. As it happens, Cairns was lucky once again. The cyclone veered north and caused damage in the Cape Tribulation area. The damage was nowhere near as extensive as it might have been.

Nevertheless, the heavy rains caused flooding on the tablelands and down around the Cairns area. Areas cut off included the northern suburbs of Cairns and areas to the south of the city. The leadership shown by organisations in the Cairns urban area and on the tablelands deserves recognition. The people in these organisations had practice and they had experience. It is clear that the community education program undertaken by these organisations has been effective.

Volunteer members of the SES worked tirelessly. These people work for no money, no recognition and no kudos. They work simply because they care for the community. We do not always see the positive side of politics, even at local government level, but the Cairns City Council deserves recognition for its disaster coordination program.

Another hero in this instance—one that is not commonly recognised—was the media. I refer in particular to radio 4CA and the ABC. Those radio stations provided a communications lifeline when the people of the region needed it most. We must pay tribute to those organisations for the leadership they show when the chips are down. That is when we know what our community is really made of.
