



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2014

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Bureau of Meteorology, Cyclone Updates

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.43 pm): It is certainly a tough act to follow the Attorney-General. There is certainly some passion there about that PUP. I want to talk about Cyclone Dylan which crossed the coast in late January. The reason I want to talk about Cyclone Dylan is to show what can be achieved when a community gets together and learns from events like that.

Cyclone Dylan was never going to be a huge event when compared with what the north has been through over the years, but it was a great trial run for getting our house in order. It was made very clear that, whilst many of the systems in place at a local level were spot-on and ready to handle the challenge, the Bureau of Meteorology's handling of the situation was quite poor. I particularly highlight the area of the updates when a cyclone crosses the coast. The rules stand as follows. When a category 3 cyclone or above crosses the coast, the bureau goes to hourly updates, but if it is less than a category 3 they have always been kept at three-hourly updates. That does not make any sense to me. If a category 2 cyclone crosses the coast on a high tide in a populated area, that would cause so much more concern than a category 3 that crosses in an unpopulated area.

The point that we as a community made very clear was that, for the sake of the couple of times a year when a cyclone crosses the coast, surely the bureau could go to hourly updates. There was a significant push-back, and I have to say that it was not from the politicians. I am not blaming the funding on the previous federal Labor government because that would be wrong, and I am not blaming the funding on the current federal government because that would be wrong. It is not a matter of funding. It was a matter of culture—and not culture at a local level but culture out of Canberra. That culture placed the communities that I represent in grave danger, so we spoke loudly and we spoke clearly. I was absolutely delighted with the response from the minister, Mr Hunt, who immediately acted to change that policy. There were no committees, no sitting around in circles. A decision was taken and that was the right decision. I come back to the issue. This is not—

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have no idea why the member for Rockhampton is interjecting when his community is one of the ones we want to protect. I have absolutely no idea why the member for Rockhampton is carrying on like a pork chop. The member for Rockhampton is the bloke who said that nothing consequential ever comes across my desk, despite the fact that his community has been impacted by floods. This is a man who does not get it. I want to place on record my sincere thanks to the media, particularly my local paper, the *Townsville Bulletin*. This was a campaign that we ran very, very hard and we got a win. As a result of that win, the communities I represent are much better placed.