




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Operation Energise; Vietnam Veterans Day

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.20 pm): Those opposite always speak vitriol about the union movement. They never speak of the good the movement does for the workers, families and communities of this state. I rise tonight to tell you a little bit about Operation Energise, an initiative of the mighty Electrical Trades Union that mobilises every time our state suffers from a natural disaster or communities are impacted in a way where power is cut. They work for free to provide electrical work and testing to home owners and community groups who have copped nature's worst.

A few weeks ago I was honoured to be able to host a small thank-you barbecue on level 7 of this place to thank those electrical workers, apprentices and company representatives who participated in the latest operation after Tropical Cyclone Debbie lashed our shores and flooded areas throughout the state. The crew spent three weeks away from home and were better prepared than ever thanks in no small part to a trailer donated by Energy Super. Participating in these operations is a humbling experience. Helping someone whose home has been devastated by getting them even one working power point or safety testing an appliance so they can safely use it gives a real feeling of fulfilment.

There are also some real low points when one is doing this work and particular thanks must be given to Mates in Construction for providing help and advice on what to do when some conversations start to take a downward turn. I was able to participate in Operation Energise myself after the Bundaberg floods so I have firsthand experience in how lives can be changed with this work. I was able to present certificates of thanks to Brett Hanan, Bruce Humphreys, Cameron Humphreys, Andrew Humphreys, Garry Lloyd, Josh Rubia, Andrew Railey, Chris Bredhauer, Jake Goldsworthy, Sam Wright, Alex Alleman and Tri Tran. It is good to see some of the same tradesmen lining up to do it every time. Also thanked were the mighty Electrical Trades Union, in particular Keith McKenzie and Craig Thomas, Energy Queensland, Powerlink—it was particularly good to catch up with some of my old bosses, Dave Sinnamon and Gary Edwards—Energex, Ergon, Electrogroupp apprentices, Energy Super, Mates in Construction, Stowe Australia and Perigon Electrical. Also thanks to Minister de Brenni for attending and acknowledging the great work done by the union and its members and the companies who participated. I, like everyone in this place, hope we never need to mobilise Operation Energise again, but sadly when we live in this state we know that Mother Nature will always have her say.

Last week in Kallangur I also attended some Vietnam Veterans Day services. One in particular was memorable: the Patriots Motorcycle Club. Dave, the president, ran a great service. The theme this year was peacekeeping forces. There were some touching poems read by members and a great speech by Major Scott Revel about his experiences and enemy contact when he was on peacekeeping missions. Those guys really do get it, being vets themselves, and they put on a great service and it is a credit to them.