




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cyclone Trevor

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): I rise to give the House an update on Queensland's latest weather system, Tropical Cyclone Trevor, now ex-Tropical Cyclone Trevor. Trevor crossed the coast near Lockhart River on Cape York Peninsula last Tuesday as a high category 3 system. On Friday I visited Lockhart River with Commissioner Carroll, and I can assure the House that that community was ready. There were swiftwater rescue and floodwater rescue boats, and personnel had been deployed across the Far North region. The town of Lockhart River went into lockdown at one o'clock in the afternoon on Tuesday. The school was closed. Police cars were driven around the town with their sirens on, warning the community to go indoors and stay indoors. I spoke with the mayor, Wayne Butcher, after Trevor had passed over. He said it was like a freight train that ran for around six hours nonstop in the afternoon.

QFES assessment teams started work first thing Wednesday morning and by the end of the week they had assessed more than 170 properties, only one of which was considered severely damaged, and we are pretty sure that it was an abandoned building. An extra half a dozen SES personnel were deployed from Cairns to help with the clean-up. Together with the teams already in Lockhart River they did a mighty fine job.

When I visited Friday I was told much of the debris had already been cleared away. You could see it stacked on the sides of roads, branches piled up and a lot of chainsaw work was occurring across town. There is still a lot of work to do, but an awful lot of work has already been done. In Aurukun 180 homes lost power, while power was completely cut to Lockhart River. Today I am pleased to report that electricity has now been restored to all of that network. That particular weather system is not quite finished with Queensland. The forecast is for rain across the north and the west of this state, but again QFES staff and volunteers were amongst those at the forefront of operations. They were there before the system arrived, they were there during the system and they are there the moment the winds die down.

Trevor is the latest in what has been an intense summer of fires, floods, monsoon troughs, heatwaves and cyclones. Trevor has given me yet another opportunity to truly appreciate what it is that the men and women of QFES do so readily to assist the people of Queensland in their time of need. Again, I thank them for their time.