




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.24 pm): The impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred are far-reaching and we have seen damage to the north of Hervey Bay, out west to the south border and beyond. It has been and continues to be an incredibly challenging time for Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government has been there for them and will help see them through this difficult time. When we said there would be no daylight between response and recovery, we meant it. Even as the disaster was unfolding, we were prepared and ready to mobilise recovery hubs immediately where they were needed across the state and across the south-east to provide face-to-face support. We have hundreds of staff prepared to do what Queenslanders do best—help their mates through a tough time, and, let me tell you, we have been out there helping our mates.

As of 2 pm—only about 25 minutes ago, and I did not get the opportunity to update the Premier as he came in from Ingham—I am pleased to announce that we now have 15 recovery hubs open, with two more opening this afternoon in the Beechmont community in the Scenic Rim and also in Jimboomba in Logan. I can also reveal that, as of a few hours ago, more than \$10 million in emergency hardship assistance grants have been approved, helping more than 50,000 people across the south-east, and 96.3 per cent of applications for grants have been processed and paid within 24 hours of applying. In the north, \$6.5 million in emergency hardship assistance grants have been approved, and across both disasters more than 30,000 calls have been made to the 24/7 Community Recovery Hotline.

Community Recovery Hubs not only offer assistance with grants; they also offer a smile, mental health support and referral pathways. They provide hope and comfort for those who may not have experienced what many of us from North Queensland have experienced many times in our lifetime in terms of the fear and anxiety when you have a tropical cyclone confronting you and your family.

We continue to work in lockstep with our councils. I do want to thank them on behalf of the government, together with Minister Leahy's leadership, with regard to the engagement and consultation that we have had with councils. My department has also had deep conversations with councils over the course of the last few days.

Queenslanders are looking after Queenslanders. It was at the Nerang Community Recovery hub with the Premier, Minister Leahy and the member for Mermaid Beach that we had the opportunity to meet Greg and Judy. Greg and Judy are residents of the Gold Coast and had just returned after working with Lifeline in the Ingham floods, and there they were working with those members of our community impacted by what we have just seen. They are a retired couple and they love giving back, and it was just a privilege to hear about their service to our state. I also want to thank our partners at the Red Cross, the Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network, the Salvation Army, UnitingCare, Lifeline and

Queensland Health along with the department of housing staff, Energex and the Insurance Council of Australia who have been out and about and part of our community hubs and pop-ups. GIVIT has also launched a TC Alfred appeal.

As Queenslanders we are strong, we are resilient and we are certainly not strangers to our fair share of disasters. The immediate dangers of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred might be over, but this is just the start of a recovery, and the Crisafulli government is there for the long haul.