




Speech By
Ariana Doolan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pumicestone Electorate, Cyclone Alfred

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise today with immense pride to speak about the resilience and kindness of the Pumicestone electorate during ex-Cyclone Alfred. In the face of adversity I witnessed an incredible community spirit: neighbours helping neighbours, young people stepping up and businesses offering support without hesitation. Kenzie, a young local, spent her day filling sandbags for older residents; Steven used the surf club van to deliver sandbags to Woorim caravan park; and businesses like Bribie Sand and Gravel generously gave away free sand. These are just a few examples of the countless people who not only prepared themselves but also went out of their way to prepare others. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who took the warning seriously and prepared for the storm. A special thanks to the Moreton Bay council, led by Mayor Peter Flannery, for their exceptional work in ensuring our region was ready and well supported in recovery efforts. Without the teamwork and coordination from both council and state government, Pumicestone could have faced prolonged power outages, blocked roads and all of the other challenges that come with a tropical cyclone.

I would also like to acknowledge our men and women in blue, in particular Chief Superintendent Adam Guild, who kept me updated and led the doorknocking efforts, amongst other things, to ensure vulnerable residents were safe. Our SES crews, firefighters, health workers and volunteers are the real-life superheroes. Of course, a massive thank you goes to Energex, who worked tirelessly to restore power to thousands of homes across South-East Queensland. It was a stressful week and perhaps we were a little overprepared, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. Never again will I take for granted being in the eye of the storm.

While Pumicestone was fortunate, my heart goes out to communities further south and to Hervey Bay, where homes and businesses suffered severe flooding and damage. For those in Pumicestone who have experienced hardship, I want to remind you that personal hardship assistance is now available for eligible residents. This includes emergency payments of \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for a family of five or more, grants that cover damaged whitegoods and loss of power, and income tested assistance for property structural repairs and the reconnection of services.

Unfortunately, I must express my disappointment that the opposition leader chose to use this disaster as a political opportunity, spreading unnecessary anxiety and fear. Moreton Bay's application for financial assistance was in the process of being submitted. It was submitted after Redlands and the Gold Coast because we were the last local government area affected. The people of Moreton Bay deserve support, not political pointscore. I commend the Premier for providing confidence and certainty to our communities during this time of need. Ron Nothman, a Bribie resident, shared his sentiments when he said—

The Premier has done an exemplary job. The Queensland government has handled this weather event perfectly. I've been through plenty of storms and have seen some woeful government stuff-ups, but not this time.