



Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

**MOTION**

**Weather Events, Response**

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (5.51 pm): Like many parts of South-East Queensland, my electorate of Sandgate has suffered the effects of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Many of my constituents have experienced localised flooding and devastating storm damage to their properties. Thousands of residents were without electricity for four days. Some in Bracken Ridge whom I met today at our community lunch were without power for up to six days. Their power was restored this morning, thanks to Energex and Ergon workers. I know they have worked incredibly hard to reconnect power to thousands of households as quickly as possible and there are high numbers of households that need this done. I would like to thank Chris Graham and the Energex team including Ben, whom I met on Sixth Avenue while they were restoring power to Sandgate residents.

Our entire community has been impacted by this weather event to some degree, and I want to acknowledge those who are suffering as a result of this and also those who are affected by a loss of income due to this weather event. While out helping our community prepare for the cyclone, I met many volunteers who put everything aside to help other members of our community. They included Jacob, who spent six hours with me at the Boondall entertainment centre sandbagging station filling sandbag after sandbag. He told me that he thought he had done enough at his house and then he wanted to help vulnerable members of our community to make sure they had the sandbags they needed. Thank you, Jacob, for supporting our community.

I also say thank you to Pushkar, who filled his van with sandbags to deliver them to other people, especially those who were not able to wait in their cars for up to five hours at sandbagging stations. That included Lee from Taigum and other vulnerable residents who were unable to get to a sandbag station. I thank Margaret from the Sandgate Uniting Church who volunteered to open the church as a place of refuge for those residents who needed to evacuate and did not have friends or family to go to, as they were told to do by this government. There was also Ann and Holly from Fitzgibbon, who worked together to keep the Fitzgibbon Community Centre open. Thank you. Holly, who lives near the centre, took a key to make sure that people had somewhere to go at all times—something that was not offered by this government. There was also Susan and her team at SANDBAG who helped pack up tents and belongings of rough sleepers in my community and offered them a place of safe shelter and food at SANDBAG. It is a great organisation that has itself been impacted by this weather event.

Not one evacuation centre was established to offer a safe haven in my community. I wrote to the minister for disaster and to this day I have not heard back about this. When questioned, Brisbane City Council did end up opening a temporary refuge centre. It was a place of last resort and had basic amenities: no beds, cooking facilities or food for people to take.

Once the storm passed, we began to learn of the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the thousands of residents who have been affected including Faye and John in Brighton who lost the roof from their house. My thoughts are with them. Faye and John, I would like to do anything I can for you to support you in this time.

I have also had residents from Bracken Ridge call me to report sewage overflow in their pipes. Despite reporting it to Brisbane City Council, they were told they could not provide them assistance. Residents of my electorate have been concerned about not being included in the disaster relief payments, so I wrote to the minister for disaster to request this. While I did not hear back, I am grateful that this is now being added and residents in my community are able to access this payment. Fitzgibbon, however, was left off the list, so I wrote another letter to the minister for disaster and am yet to hear back. However, I am pleased to inform the residents of Fitzgibbon that they are now able to apply for this. Just like people in neighbouring communities, they are able to get the support they need. I want them to know that I will do whatever I can in this time to support them. Please reach out to my office if I can help in any way possible.

Today I met a nurse, Steph, at our community barbecue. She has a family of four with another one on the way. Steph is a nurse at Caboolture Hospital. She told me that, while they did not have power for five days, she was at the hospital caring for others and supporting them and also trying to manage her three-year-old who was at home with gastro. My thoughts are with you, Steph. You have gotten through and you now have power. I wish you the best in recovery.

Natural disasters demonstrate very clearly the strengths of our community, and I have a very strong community. I want to talk about sporting clubs in my community that have been impacted including the Brighton Roosters, the Sandgate Hawks and other clubs like the Sandgate Golf Club. I will support them throughout this recovery in whatever way I can. I implore the government to make sure it continues to support our small businesses. There is currently no payment for our small businesses. They are suffering and have had to close. I would like to see some support for small businesses in my electorate of Sandgate.