



Speech By
Bree James

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Far North Queensland, Representation

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.15 pm): It is hard to believe that many of my parliamentary colleagues and I celebrate our one-year anniversary in this chamber. I stepped into a role that has challenged me to my core, inspired me and ultimately given me the honour of representing the good people of Barron River and Far North Queensland. I decided to run because Cairns was hurting and hurting bad. I looked around our community and our local businesses and saw the challenges we were facing.

Two years ago, just weeks after I announced that I would be running, our region was faced with the worst natural disaster in a 100 years, Cyclone Jasper and the Jasper floods. Far North Queensland is still suffering from that natural disaster, with many of our roads still under repair and many locals still living in makeshift homes while theirs are being repaired. My thoughts are with those still impacted by that disaster.

I knew that this role was not just about delivering for Far North Queensland; it was about taking action. My promise to my region was that their concerns would be brought to the table. From day one it has been about action, listening and delivering results, not just promises. That is what our government is all about. Here are a few of the things that my team and I are really proud of.

For five years, the pleas of former principal Dan Hollis and his staff at Trinity Beach State School for a new fence fell on deaf ears. Multiple emails, letters and conversations later, Trinity Beach State School will get its fence by 2026. I thank Minister Langbroek for delivering safety to the school.

For years the team at Far North Queensland Legacy have been fundraising for Legacy House, a purpose-built facility to support veteran families. I met with them six months ago. We created a petition that over 1,000 people signed. There were lots of meetings with the Premier. Just a couple of weeks ago we announced \$1 million for Legacy to start their dream of building a very important facility at Smithfield in my electorate, where land has been given to them by council. It is very exciting. I thank the Premier, Mr David Crisafulli, for supporting our veteran community. I am really grateful for that funding and for this incredible project.

For 22 months, 130 homes at Kamerunga Villas had been left on generator power after being inundated during the Jasper floods. There were months and months of negotiations, extensions, funding and government support as the residents of those 130 houses lived without power other than generator power. However, finally the power was switched back on the other week and they are back on the main grid. For the first time in 22 months their streetlights work, their security gates are closed, their pools are open and they can hear the sound of birds again. Thank you to Minister Leahy for caring for that community and for helping with that important issue. She has been instrumental in getting this done. From the bottom of my heart and from all of Far North Queensland, thank you.

For six months, Simon Beggs and the team at JCU Dental have been looking for funding. While we have done lots and lots, as long as I am the elected member for Barron River I will continue to fight for more.

(Time expired)