



Speech By  
**Hon. Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**South-East Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.01 am): I wish to advise the House of the response by our frontline emergency services to Cyclone Alfred that wreaked havoc in parts of Queensland over the past week. In particular, I want to inform the House of the magnificent efforts of our police and SES volunteers in assisting in the preparation and evacuation of many of their fellow Queenslanders. In the face of personal danger, hundreds of our police and volunteers went from door to door, waded through flooded creeks and roads warning of potential danger and, where necessary, guided evacuees to places of safety. Through diligent preparation, attention to detail and committed execution, the contribution of these dedicated workers cannot be faulted.

Queenslanders faced a significant challenge over this period and it was with the help of these agencies and volunteers that our response has been both timely and effective, with no lives lost and no reports of missing persons. To put this into perspective, it should be noted that 736 extra police were deployed to assist in vulnerable districts. This included undertaking over 10,000 doorknocks, warning residents of the potential threats to their lives and property as well as assisting in a host of rescues.

I visited a number of sites throughout last week from Hervey Bay in the north to the Gold Coast in the south. On the Gold Coast and in North Brisbane, I met a group of police recruits doorknocking ahead of the disaster. Still in training, they were given a glimpse of what life in a blue uniform would be like. Some have just started at the academy while others are on the verge of graduating. Wherever I went, local police were leading by example, doing the hard work required and looking after their fellow Queenslanders.

Other state agencies also figured in this response. Marine Rescue Queensland was activated on 71 occasions for tasks including welfare checks, medevacs and other calls for assistance—a hazardous undertaking for which they are owed our thanks and admiration.

Our SES volunteers responded exceptionally, as they always do. From 2 March to 11 March, there were 13,150 SES jobs across 18 local government areas from Bundaberg in the north, to the Gold Coast in the south and the Southern Downs and Toowoomba in the west. In the 24 hours over last Sunday and Monday, there were 3,676 calls for help to the SES—the most calls ever received in one day. SES volunteers helped distribute more than one million sandbags and assisted with the evacuation of residents at risk of inundation.

As I indicated, I travelled extensively throughout the south-east over the past week. I was determined to meet as many of our frontline officers, personnel and volunteers as possible to offer my thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the Crisafulli government, for their efforts, but also, just as importantly, to make sure they were receiving the support they needed. I could not have been more impressed with their efforts.

While a disaster of this nature throws up many challenges, ensuring the safety of our communities is the most crucial and the most challenging. What our police and frontline personnel did to assist during this time was commendable. With two significant natural disasters confronting Queenslanders this year, at both ends of the state, the police, SES, fire and all our frontline personnel have responded in a way that only they know how—with courage, determination and professionalism. All Queenslanders owe them a debt of gratitude.