



Speech By  
**Hon. David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **North Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.46 am): I rise to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our frontline workers and volunteers who responded to this month's devastating flood event in North Queensland. Ergon Energy crews, SES volunteers, emergency services personnel and the ADF worked tirelessly in challenging conditions to keep communities safe and connected. Their efforts were nothing short of extraordinary.

I also want to acknowledge the resilience and community spirit I witnessed firsthand, especially in Ingham. Some locals there told me they had never experienced devastation like this, not even during the 1967 floods. The impact and heartbreak were clear. More than 33,000 homes and businesses lost power across North Queensland during the weather event. Ergon crews worked around the clock and power was fully restored within eight days. It was an all-hands-on-deck restoration effort, ranging from rebuilding the backbone of the high-voltage network at Ollera Creek to dispatching generators by barge and air. Ergon's tireless efforts ensured the Ingham Substation was re-energised within just 28 hours of crews gaining access. Never has a substation been re-energised so quickly in these conditions. This was an outstanding effort, and crews should be commended.

While it is too soon to determine the overall economic loss from the North Queensland floods, early information suggests it will be less than recent major weather events including Cyclone Jasper. Federal Treasury has suggested that it will drag the March national GDP back by 0.1 per cent. Queensland is built on resilience and community spirit. Time and again we see Queenslanders standing together in trying times, and recent weeks have been no different. I extend my sincere thanks to every frontline worker who stepped up to help, especially the Ergon Energy team. Queensland is stronger because of you.