



Speech By  
**Hon. David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**South-East Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.10 pm): I associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and wish the honourable member a speedy recovery.

I rise today to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the workers and volunteers who responded to Cyclone Alfred. Before, during and in the days since this extraordinary weather event, Energex and Ergon Energy teams have worked tirelessly alongside SES volunteers, emergency services personnel and the ADF to keep communities safe and connected. Even before the cyclone hit, Energex had pre-deployed mobile generators to support critical community infrastructure. Faced with the greatest loss of power in the state's history due to a natural disaster, a team of more than 2½ thousand Energex and Ergon workers exceeded their regular duties to help Queenslanders through a challenging time the likes of which many had never seen before in the south-east corner.

In all, more than 450,000 homes and businesses lost power at some point, caused by more than 1,700 fallen powerlines. It left a massive job for the crews tasked with restoring connections—workers like 21-year-old Bella, whom I met this week, working with the crew at Eatons Crossing Road in Eatons Hill to restore power there. Bella might be young, but this is already the fourth natural disaster she has responded to in her time with Ergon. She, along with many others, had come down from the Sunshine Coast to help Brisbane and the Gold Coast in particular in their time of need. Ergon and Energex teams are the embodiment of the Queensland spirit, stopping at nothing to support those in need, and I thank them for their tireless work.

Energex and Ergon crews endured wind and driving rain to get the power back on for Queenslanders. They made their way through floodwater and fallen trees and into devastated neighbourhoods. Many workers had no power of their own. One of the challenges the crews face at the moment is the rugged terrain that must be tackled around some of the places that remain out of power supply. The regions around Mount Tamborine, in the Gold Coast hinterland and in certain areas of the bay islands are very difficult to get to and are heavily forested. Ergon and Energex workers are doing everything to restore power there. Restoring electricity to 400,000 households and businesses since the beginning of the weather event is the largest and fastest restoration after disaster-impacted outages in Queensland's history. As I outlined earlier today, the remainder of outages are scheduled for completion by this Sunday.

One of the more remarkable stories to emerge was on Sunday night in Brisbane at the Nudgee substation. When it became clear that this key substation, which supplies power to more than 100,000 customers, was under threat and about to be submerged, Energex, the SES, RoadTek, police and council crews raced against the high tide to protect that valuable asset and prevent it from going down. About an hour away from the substation being flooded, crews and all emergency services coordinated brilliantly to put in barriers, place sandbags, clear drains and pump water. It was the best example

imaginable of emergency crews, police and council working together to deliver an outcome. If we learned anything from the Ingham substation it was that once substations are down they are very difficult to replace quickly. Protecting that substation meant that another 100,000 people did not wake up without power on Monday morning.

Similarly on the Gold Coast, Energex assisted Powerlink at its Molendinar substation. Energex crews provided auxiliary generation to keep the substation operational, preventing an outage impacting potentially 30,000 people. Energex has also assisted telcos and schools to keep networks up and running. I can announce that, as at 2 pm, 90 per cent of outages have been restored. There are still 50,000 homes and businesses without power. We know how frustrating this is, but crews are working around the clock until every Queenslander has their lights back on. They will not stop until the job is done.