




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.58 am): The wind and rain whipped up by Tropical Cyclone Alfred led to the greatest loss of power from a natural disaster in this state's history. It has led to the largest and fastest restoration of power that Queensland has ever seen but there is more work to do. Many South-East Queenslanders are still doing it tough and remain without power, and they can be assured that our Energex and Ergon crews are doing everything they can to get the power back on.

The crews have done a remarkable job, given the challenging circumstances. I can report to the House that, as at 9 am this morning, 58,000 homes and businesses remain without power. The restoration plan outlined by Energex on Monday night detailed that 75 per cent of outages would be restored by tonight, 95 per cent by Friday night and 100 per cent by Sunday night. Given 58,000 homes remain without power, Energex and Ergon have now restored 87 per cent of outages. That is ahead of the restoration plan but there are countless more urgent tasks to complete.

Energex and Ergon crews are back in the field right now working hard to restore power. It has been a significant challenge. Faced with 450,000 homes and businesses without power from 1,700 fallen powerlines, a team of more than 2,500 Energex and Ergon workers exceeded their regular duties to help restore connections. Energex and Ergon crews who travelled from across Queensland to support the restoration efforts endured wind and driving rain to get power back for Queenslanders. One crew member said that restoring power in Sunday's torrential rain was 'like someone spraying you directly in the face with a garden hose while you are trying to get a job done'. All the while, one in five of these crew members had no power at their own homes and many had to leave their families while they went out to help others.

The work of Energex and Ergon continues day and night to restore power. Every resource is being deployed to ensure that homes and businesses have power restored as soon as possible.