




Speech By
David Lee

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay, Weather Events

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.02 pm): I rise to honour our astounding and dedicated Hervey Bay emergency services personnel who have courageously demonstrated selfless service in very challenging circumstances. On Sunday, 9 March at about 5 am, Hervey Bay experienced the effects of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. There was a deluge of rain in a short period and our open stormwater drainage infrastructure simply could not function. Unfortunately, the surge in rainfall, in conjunction with stormwater drains blocked with vegetation and debris, resulted in widespread flooding.

At Parklands Aged Care, the personal care staff had to evacuate 32 frail residents to the second level of the nursing home after the residents' rooms became inundated with water. Multistorey apartments located on the Esplanade were awash with water as their basements flooded, irreparably damaging main switchboards. The Sugar Coast Village was submerged, with a wall of water causing localised flooding in low-lying homes. The Hervey Bay Bowls Club may have sustained hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the synthetic bowling greens as water engulfed the club's grounds.

Others affected include our hardworking small business owners and many home owners. This morning, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie and I engaged with local business owners. Our Hervey Bay community is hurting. I commend Premier David Crisafulli for his outstanding leadership and support. The Premier was in daily contact with me and had a sound grasp of the issues affecting Hervey Bay.

I now wish to thank each of our hardworking emergency personnel. The Hervey Bay Fire and Rescue Station, which under the leadership of Rob Hocking, attended 74 call-outs in six hours, including 20 swiftwater rescues on 9 March. Superintendent Anne Vogler, Senior Sergeant Brooke Flood and the Hervey Bay police services staff, who were supported by 15 police from Capricornia, providing a strong presence in our community.

The Hervey Bay SES tirelessly supported our community, and our local Hervey Bay Lions Club kept the SES nourished and hydrated throughout the entire ordeal. The Queensland Ambulance Service supported our community, notwithstanding the loss of an ambulance, which I understand sustained extensive water damage. Ergon Energy restored power to many homes and businesses, notwithstanding very challenging road and weather conditions.

Finally, I thank the Fraser Coast Regional Council for establishing a targeted kerbside collection program. Our thoughts, hearts and prayers go out to our Hervey Bay community and our emergency services personnel who selflessly serve our community.