




Speech By
Hermann Vorster

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Burleigh Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.22 pm): As Tropical Cyclone Alfred bore down on the Burleigh electorate, our community stood up and stood together. Whilst I know that many are still getting back on their feet, I want to honour those who helped our community weather the storm. Our school principals were absolutely incredible. I thank Scott Anderson at Palm Beach State School and Rob Templeton at Burleigh Heads State School who were in regular contact with me and who worked to get local kids back in class.

In Tallebudgera, St Andrews Lutheran College was ably led by principal Luke Schoff, who overcame significant odds to welcome back students. I want to thank the Treasurer for working with me to restore power at the school and local councillor Josh Martin who solved a particularly tricky wastewater issue.

Local churches threw open their doors and looked after the most vulnerable—the homeless, the infirm and the lonely. There were also places of refuge for parents whose children needed an outlet and for workers who needed power and connectivity. Let me praise Pastor Kevin Thomas and Ruth Arnold at OurChurch, Burleigh Heads Church of Christ service coordinator Ann Donnelly-Marshall, Reverend Ralph Mayhew at Burleigh Village Uniting Church and Father Morgan Batt at the Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish.

I am so proud of our small and family businesses that stayed open for as long as it was safe to do so and did so at considerable cost. The Burleigh Waters community was certainly grateful to the FoodWorks on Christine Avenue and I know that Palm Beach was touched when Scott's Luncheonette & Bar refused payment for some meals.

That is what Burleigh does best—it sticks together. It seemed everyone rolled up their sleeves to help, whether it was neighbours at sandbagging stations or volunteer community groups. They turned up to sandbag the mighty Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and they turned up to open the sports club. They turned up at the Varsity Lakes Community Resource Centre and they turned up to clean up our creek. I want to single out Orange Sky for working with my team to offer Tallebudgera locals hot showers after long days without power. My sincere thanks to their team.

Speaking of teams, I really want to thank the Minister for the Environment and Tourism, Andrew Powell, for being in touch with me immediately to see whether there was something he could do for my electorate, Minister John-Paul Langbroek, Minister Laura Gerber—my adjacent MP—and Minister Sam O'Connor, for helping my schools get the repairs that they needed. Above all, I want to thank the Premier for treating Queenslanders like adults, setting the correct tone and working with local government.

To close, I want to acknowledge Councillor Dan Doran, Councillor Josh Martin, Councillor Nick Marshall OAM and Acting Mayor, Councillor Donna Gates, who did a phenomenal job looking after the Gold Coast when it needed it most. My thanks to her. Burleigh we came through it.