



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **South-East Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.18 pm): Author Coretta Scott King said, 'The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.' Over this past week we have seen that greatness in action as our community responded to Cyclone Alfred. Queenslanders are no strangers to extreme weather but, for many in the south-east, this was our first experience of a cyclone, apart, of course, from many residents in The Gap who experienced winds that were commensurate with a category 3 cyclone in 2008. Many locals still recall that devastation but, unlike that event—or the 2022 floods—this time we had more time to prepare.

Most people really stepped up, securing their homes and cleaning debris from around their homes and checking on their neighbours. I give a huge thank you to our community and sporting group volunteers who not only keep things running on a day-to-day basis but went above and beyond the call of duty last week in relocating equipment and ensuring facilities were protected so that games could resume as soon as possible.

I want to highlight Sporting Wheelies, a premier Paralympic training facility and fantastic community sports hub in my electorate. They are unfortunately located in a flood zone and they have incurred around \$15,000 in costs having to relocate equipment in and out of the centre. The Miles Labor government funded that purpose-built Milton centre, but it was always supposed to be temporary. I do hope that the Olympics 100-day review addresses this and looks at a permanent home for them. Our para-athletes dominated in Paris. We need to find them a more secure, non-flood-zone facility. I have so many examples of greatness. I wish I could stop there, but there are some things I need to raise.

I urge the government to activate the Care Army before disasters and not just after. In the lead-up to the cyclone my office spent a full three days assisting residents who needed help with moving furniture, cleaning out yards and cleaning out gutters. We even hired a tradie, Cameron from Hire a Hubby, who was fantastic. He spent a full day making repairs for local people who did not have those informal supports. He was an absolute godsend.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** Thank you. Yes, I will take that. This is the second sitting week I have raised the impact of natural disasters on small businesses. Small businesses do not just drive our economy; they are the heart of our communities. We have a lot of them in Rosalie, Milton and Paddington that continue to shut down every time there are major flooding events, not just cyclones. They lose power, stock and income. They still have to pay their staff. I have written to numerous ministers in the past week about this. We really do need some action in the Milton and Rosalie area. We are continuing to call on the government to look at more relief payments for small businesses that are affected by flooding and natural disasters. We will continue to call on them to do more for our small business community.