




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Natural Disasters, Recovery

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.00 pm): In this final sitting week, I want to acknowledge the people who keep our community safe, united and connected—our frontline workers, SES volunteers, neighbourhood centres, nurses and teachers, community sport and arts groups, and the thousands of locals who simply show up for one another. They have carried a heavy load this year and deserve a proper break and a safe and restful summer and the confidence that their elected representatives are working just as hard to protect the communities that they serve.

That brings me to the reality facing Queensland as we head into storm season—although, as many families have experienced, it started early again this year. The weather patterns we grew up with are shifting. Storms are more intense and more unpredictable and the recovery time between disasters is shrinking. This is now the lived reality of thousands of Queensland households. The division of Brisbane is among the top 10 electorates in the country most impacted by climate related disasters. That means higher insurance premiums, more strain on emergency services, disrupted small businesses and more pressure on households, especially women who we know shoulder the burden of unpaid labour in disaster recovery.

Nowhere is the failure of current systems more visible than the ongoing recovery from the February floods. There are families in my electorate who are still navigating state and local government approval processes just to rebuild their properties—10 months on. Rapidly rising creeks have caused severe land erosion to these properties, leaving some households more than \$50,000 out of pocket before a shovel has even hit the ground. It is extraordinary—and, frankly, unacceptable—that individual landholders are left solely responsible for creek care and for rebuilding creek banks after a catastrophic flood. Neither the state government nor the Brisbane City Council has offered these families meaningful assistance. Instead, home owners have been left to carry enormous personal and financial burdens created by forces far beyond their control.

At the same time, the Queensland government this week moves to wind back renewable energy targets and the Brisbane City Council continues to offer no serious commitments, no timelines and no reassurances on climate adaptation. Queenslanders deserve better. We need coordinated investment in flood resilient infrastructure, urban cooling, early warning systems, community disaster hubs and the skills and jobs that will sustain this work for decades.

As parliament breaks for the year, Queensland is heading into another period of extreme weather. I want it clearly on the record that communities deserve more than reactive clean-ups and sympathy. They deserve confidence that every level of government is acting in their long-term interests—planning ahead, reducing risk and ensuring families are not left alone to navigate impossible costs and endless approvals.