




Speech By
Kendall Morton

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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ADJOURNMENT

South-East Queensland, Weather Events; Pumicestone Passage

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.30 pm): Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all of the communities around South-East Queensland that have been impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred. We heard earlier today how many families are still without power and how the work of volunteer and emergency services is so appreciated. I rise today to speak about and highlight a place that is very clear to our hearts in Caloundra and that place is the Pumicestone Passage. Families have enjoyed the waterways of the Pumicestone Passage for generations—safe boating, clear waterways and many memories made. It is our postcard, and we are all so proud and connected to it.

Early in the last term of government we became acutely aware our passage was at risk when, after years of erosion, the northern end of Bribie Island broke through. The community rallied in support of taking action and tried to get governments to listen to them regarding the protection of this waterway. On the foreshores of Golden Beach, our very own Caloundra Power Boat Club was certainly at risk after severe erosion and the team there were vigilant in their preparations during this event.

Bribie Island acts as a barrier island to protect our community, as well as being a very special place to spend time. When I visited the island last just two short weeks ago, I witnessed another breakthrough occurring which has now turned into two. Our island is at risk of washing away through decades of inaction. We dodged a bullet that firmly hit our fellow communities in South-East Queensland in the event of Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Our best thoughts are with our fellow Queenslanders as they now go through the recovery process.

I would like to acknowledge the advocacy of Jen, Ken and the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Management Body—a community group of volunteers who are committed to fighting for the passage and its protection. I would also like to acknowledge Les, Hamish, Sally and all of the team down at the marina who are so invested in our boating community and have created a wonderful addition to our town. In addition, I thank the outstanding operation that is the Caloundra Coastguard and the four crews who run tirelessly. You are such an important part of our community and, despite a reported significant increase in events in our Pumicestone Passage, they continue to work and work to keep us all safe. Thank you.