




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

South-East Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (9.20 pm): Last week South-East Queensland prepared for its first cyclone in decades. For many people across my electorate of Algester, this was the first time they had ever experienced anything like this. Our community worked hard in the lead-up to the arrival of Tropical Cyclone Alfred and in true Queensland spirit they did not stop at just taking care of themselves; they also stepped up to help the community more broadly.

I was on hand multiple times at the Acacia Ridge sandbagging station and the Browns Plains Road, Crestmead sandbagging station where we helped so many local residents get the sandbags they needed to secure their properties. There were literally thousands of sandbags filled at just these stations alone, and I reckon I personally filled close to 300 of those myself. My back is telling me it was close to 300, let me tell you.

It was amazing to see local residents turn up and work hard to get their own sandbags and then stay to help others do the same. I stood next to an overseas student who helped me make up sandbags for some older residents who were unable to physically shovel the sand or lift the bags. On another occasion, a young gym owner went shovel for shovel with me to help speed up the process of filling sandbags and get people back to their homes quicker. It was an inspirational display of the incredible community spirit that is alive and well in the Algester electorate.

When Cyclone Alfred finally arrived, it left a trail of destruction across the Algester electorate. Yesterday I visited impacted local businesses and residents, including Acacia Pharmacy in Acacia Ridge where Elenora, Phil and the team of pharmacists were without power for a number of days, putting at risk their ability to get prescriptions to aged-care facilities. After advocating hard for them, their power was restored and they worked long hours to get important medication out to those who needed it.

I also visited Ceanne in Algester who had a huge tree tear through the roof of the home she shares with her uncle. She shared with me that house insurance was sacrificed for other expenses and they were now wondering how they would repair the extensive damage to their house. She went to apply for support through the disaster recovery grants and discovered that her area was not eligible as the Crisafulli government had still not activated any suburbs in Brisbane at the time. She was as shocked as I was.

This same shock was repeated in other households in the Algester electorate who still did not have power or had inundation in their homes and had no choice but to throw out spoiled food. These are people who do not have ready access to funds to replace food and were deeply concerned about how they were going to feed their families. They could not believe the Crisafulli government had still not activated their area for personal hardship support.

I wrote to the Premier seeking urgent action to make sure people who needed help could get it quickly. Thankfully, the activation has now occurred but by waiting longer than necessary the Premier and his government have created even more stress for vulnerable people, which is quite frankly unacceptable. As we move into the recovery efforts, I know people across the Algester electorate will continue to support each other, but they also need a government that is willing to move quickly and help those who need it the most.