




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.29 pm): Tropical Cyclone Alfred marked a significant event as the first tropical cyclone to cross the South-East Queensland coast in 51 years, having a profound impact on the Theodore electorate community. Even now, many residents remain without power, highlighting the ongoing challenges our community faces. The Theodore electorate, nestled along the ridge lines of the Gold Coast hinterland, is particularly vulnerable to storm events. We frequently witness rapid stream rises and then streams breaching their banks, damage to vegetation from high winds and too often persistent power outages.

I share the concerns expressed by many residents and by the member for Scenic Rim when it comes to vegetation overlays and their implications for both residents' safety and the integrity of our power network. We continually hear troubling accounts of requests to remove dangerous trees looming over houses being denied by council, only for those trees to later threaten lives and cause extensive damage when they fall on to houses. This endangers lives and escalates insurance premiums due to the significant damage incurred. The safety of individuals and the protection of one's property should be prioritised and considered paramount. The same concerns apply to our power network, where trees towering over the lines frequently shed branches, causing frequent outages and disruptions to the network every time we have a severe storm. Energex themselves are also fighting these issues.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the volunteers, residents who selflessly cleaned their streets and their neighbours' properties, emergency personnel, our dedicated rural fire brigades and our volunteer SES who have worked tirelessly to support our community during this challenging time. Your efforts are truly commendable. Also, I give special thanks to Matt Walker, the First Officer for the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, and Brendan Gold, the First Officer of the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. Your volunteers are legendary and you are always there to assist.

To our Energex workers, your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated especially by all the residents in the Theodore electorate and across the northern Gold Coast. Only a few days ago the vast majority of the Theodore electorate was in darkness. Today we still have small pockets that are without power, but the Energex workers have been working day and night helping to get the power back on for these residents. I thank you for your dedication to your work, to your jobs. Many residents wish me to pass on a big heartwarming thank you.