



Speech By  
**Martin Hunt**


**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

**MOTION**

**Weather Events, Response**

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.06 pm): This afternoon when the Leader of the Opposition got up and began addressing his motion, I started to think that maybe he had had a moment of reflection overnight about how pathetic their previous question time was and how embarrassing it looked for this parliament for those opposite to come in here and ask such ridiculous questions about how long someone was on the phone for or whether they hung up too early or who got on the telly and who did not get on the telly and that absolute embarrassment yesterday with regard to the politicisation of a disaster.

I thought those opposite had had a moment of reflection when he started with 'acknowledges the devastation and impact felt by Queenslanders as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred'—tick, I can get behind that; and 'expresses its deep appreciation to all responders, including volunteers who supported Queenslanders'—tick. He got all the way down to 9—there were a couple of little political barbs in there—and 10 'acknowledges the commitment of various elected representatives to their communities ... and presence rather than being distracted by electioneering in the lead-up to and during the severe weather event'.

All we have seen from the Leader of the Opposition and indeed the previous pathetic contribution by the member for Gaven is those opposite being political, completely disregarding their own motion. I have been in opposition and understand that there is a time for politics. I understand that there is a role for those opposite to hold the government to account, and I can only imagine how difficult that role is with such an outstanding Crisafulli LNP government in power. However, while we are in this House and our communities are suffering it is not the time to undertake the political pointscoring that those opposite have been trying to do. It undermines this House and it embarrasses every member here who is trying to stand up for their community. Therefore, I am going to disregard their motion and talk about the amended motion as proposed by the member for Everton and about my community.

On the night of 9-10 March, the Nicklin areas of Nambour, Palmwoods, Woombye and surrounds were hit with severe flash flooding as a result of the ex-cyclone. Firstly, I want to congratulate and thank Premier David Crisafulli and the disaster management team for their outstanding leadership, information and preparation for our community. As a result of the timely updates and information, we as a community were able to jump into action and conduct preparations, including an extensive sandbagging operation at the Nambour Showgrounds, along with a refuge centre for vulnerable people and displaced persons in our community. Nambour in particular has a large population of homeless people living in tents by creeksides and waterways. Our community services were able to reach out to them and offer them a place of refuge in preparation for the severe weather event, ensuring their safety throughout the event. The fact that there were quick responses provided to dangerous incidents, rescues, road closures and, thankfully, no reports of major injuries or loss of life, is testament to the outstanding preparation of our community and the response by volunteers and emergency services locally.

In the early hours after the floods on that night I visited the refuge centre at Nambour where many homeless and vulnerable people were gathered with beds and food, with government services and volunteer organisations. On speaking with them, concerns started to develop amongst the group that the facility may be closing that same day. I reached out to Mayor Rosanna Natoli, who was quick to act to ensure the facility remained open another night to serve those vulnerable people. I want to thank the mayor for that and I also want to thank her for her leadership locally in relation to the disaster.

In the short time I have remaining I am not able to list all of the organisations that helped in our community efforts, but I want to thank them all collectively—all our volunteers and emergency services that responded so well. I made calls to many business owners. The biggest impact was to business owners in our CBD and sporting and community groups in low-lying areas affected by flooding. It was devastating to hear stories of complete loss of stock and equipment, especially for those unable to get insurance for flooding and who are now facing losses in the hundreds of thousands of dollars—people like Jill Bingham, owner of Jetts gym in Nambour, and Daneyl Green from Mix Taste Eat, small businesses absolutely devastated by complete inundation. I look forward to working with our Crisafulli government, along with both the federal and local governments, to support the recovery of our community and businesses locally.