




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.08 pm): To our SES, our rural fires, our police, indeed all of our emergency services workers, thank you. A special thanks to our Energex crews, ably supported by Ergon crews who came to lend a hand. The individual stories during this event are many, like the neighbours who checked on their elderly neighbour to find that he had no food other than a few raw potatoes but was too proud to reach out. Thank you for looking after one of our most vulnerable. There are the likes of the 12 Baskets Outreach who care for the boaties, permanent liveaboards at Jacobs Well and in other parts of the Broadwater, not just during Alfred but on an ongoing basis through regular welfare checks. Once again, thank you for your commitment.

I am happy to report that as at 5.30 this afternoon there were 21,316 properties without power, but that is down from 400,000 across the south-east corner at the peak. On the Gold Coast, there are 12,605 properties still without power, with 1,530 of them on the northern Gold Coast—a far cry from last Friday night when it seemed there were only that many with power.

I want to reach out to those people without power now: the people of Alberton and Stapylton, totalling 282 properties; Coomera and Pimpama, totalling 454 properties; Willow Vale and Kingsholme, totally 24 properties; Cedar Creek, totalling 116 properties; and Wongawallan, Upper Coomera and Mount Tamborine, totalling 654 properties. Most of those properties are in rural communities. In all of this, it seems so unfair that the most reliant on electricity—although none of us can do without it for long—those in our rural communities, are the last to be reconnected. Electricity runs everything, including water pumps, sullage pumps and biocycles. They are the properties most difficult to resolve.

There are obvious reasons we live in rural areas, of course. We choose to live in the bush up in the Darlington Range, Mount Tamborine and our green behind the gold hinterland, like Wongawallan, or down in cane lands in the very north of the Gold Coast, including small communities like Jacobs Well and Cabbage Tree Point. Then there is Yatala, Cedar Creek and so many other places where we enjoy acreage living. We live there because they are beautiful places to live, but with that there are challenges for the restoration of power. At the end of the day, though, there are not too many who will trade places with those in the suburbs.

Coming back to those helping us through the struggle of the loss of power, let us give the biggest shout-out to the Energex crews. As one local told my wife a few days ago, 'I have not seen my Energex team husband since last Thursday.' There are no surprises there. They are working tirelessly to get the job done, together with their Ergon counterparts. Thank you to all the leadership teams out there. The residents of the northern Gold Coast: I thank you for your patience, thank you for your preparedness and thank you for your resilience in this, yet another, natural disaster Mother Nature has forced upon us.