



Speech By  
**Nigel Dalton**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Weather Events, Response**

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (2.59 pm): So far this year, Mackay has been blessed to have avoided the devastation of any natural disaster. I bring to the attention of the House the fact that personnel from Mackay came down to the south-east corner to assist. When South-East Queensland recently faced the floods and the disaster that Alfred brought, it was heartening to see so many Mackay people step forward. Among them were 16 dedicated police officers who volunteered to travel south to assist their counterparts. Those officers showed true Queensland spirit, stepping up with much needed skills. I particularly acknowledge recently promoted Superintendent Dean Cavanagh, who was deployed to the Sunshine Coast. I know the people of South-East Queensland are grateful for the support they received from him and his team. I am informed that more police officers were willing to volunteer, some of whom had recently returned from the northern deployment.

In addition to police officers, Mackay's outstanding SES volunteers once again showed their unwavering commitment to serving our state. Eighty-five SES volunteers from Mirani, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Yeppoon and the Whitsundays have travelled south to provide vital assistance. Along with their colleagues from across the Central region, those volunteers have been working tirelessly in areas such as the Redlands, Oodgeroo, Capalaba, Redcliffe and Pumicestone. In addition to those dedicated officers, 12 staff manned disaster management coordination centres. Impressively, another group of SES volunteers are ready to deploy on Sunday to assist with the clean-up in this area. I extend my deepest gratitude to those volunteers, their families and their employers who have released them. I acknowledge their willingness to leave their homes and workplaces to help fellow Queenslanders.

As we approach the upcoming Easter holidays, I encourage Australians to visit Queensland. While South-East Queensland is open for business and eager to welcome visitors, so too is the Mackay and Whitsunday region. Our region is home to some of the most beautiful beaches, islands and natural wonders in the country. Whether you are seeking a relaxing camping holiday or a hotel, Mackay and the Whitsundays have a lot to offer. By choosing to spend your holiday in regional Queensland not only do you create wonderful memories with loved ones; you also support local businesses and communities.

The dedication of our emergency services personnel cannot be understated and the Mackay region makes a contribution to those efforts. I encourage everyone to keep our hardworking responders in their thoughts in the coming days as they serve our great state.