




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Weather Events, Response

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.10 pm): Tonight I wish to honour the resilience of Queenslanders. This year has already tested Queenslanders with floods, storms and a cyclone. On each occasion Queenslanders have stepped up, shoulder to shoulder—and I mean all Queenslanders—and carried this burden together. Our decentralised state is large, it is beautiful, but it is ultimately interconnected in ways that can be seen by the eye but also are absent if no-one shares the story. You might say when one part of Queensland sneezes, the others catch a cold.

Across the state Queenslanders have experienced bare shelves, no milk, no bread, no meat or veg and yet there are no complaints. There were cancelled surgeries and cancelled flights, yet every part of our state stepped up to help our fellow Queenslanders in their time of need. A special shout-out to our amazing SES volunteers from across the state who, even when their own communities were struggling, still got on planes—15 police officers from the central region alone came down here—to be of service to the state of Queensland.

I want to acknowledge our absolutely brilliant teachers who, while their own families may or may not have had power, may or may not have had cleaning up to do at their own home, opened up schools when they were safe to do so under the guidance of their principals to provide an opportunity for kids to start to deal with the trauma of the events that they had just experienced. It is a really special moment. It is not a normal school day and I acknowledge the special work that our teachers do on those days providing a place of safety, a place of community, where our kids can come back and see the semblance of a normal day. Our emergency services who stepped up, our rural and regular fires, ambos, our doctors and nurses all played such a special role.

I also want to take a moment to say how incredibly proud I was of each and every one of the MPs of this parliament. They demonstrated leadership on their Facebook posts, on their videos, when they were out there stepping up for their community, when they had their own families, their own worries. They kept going out there and fulfilling their role as a leader and I am so incredibly proud. I know how hard it is. In case no-one has said it this week, I wanted to say thank you because I know it is a big step. They have served their communities so well. Thank you.