




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

MOTION

North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.01 pm): North Queenslanders expect rain to fall throughout their wet season and most will expect an event of some nature through the summer, yet each year our state sees records smashed and recast as Mother Nature puts us through our paces.

The North Queensland floods were the result of a combination of monsoonal rainfall and a tropical low system that in some Queensland communities rained down measuring some two metres. The event was enduring. I want to acknowledge that through events of sustained rainfall—rainfall that feels like it will never give up—there is an emotional and psychological toll. North Queenslanders are often admired for their resilience, their endurance and for being tough, but enduring events like these that bring devastation, loss of property, loss of precious, irreplaceable keepsakes and loss of life are extremely testing times. Every Queenslanders is standing with the people of the north through this event and as they recover.

I acknowledge the emergency services volunteers and the frontline personnel who have worked through this event to keep our community safe and respond to the varying challenges it throws at us. It has been starkly obvious to me as I have connected with them on the ground that these humans have huge hearts. We have seen SES and rural firefighters in the hundreds come from interstate to lend a hand. The opposition leader and I even met with some Country Fire Authority folk who took the time to travel to the other end of the country in between protecting their own communities in Victoria from serious threats.

We share our condolences with the emergency services community and our orange army in particular through this event. Any loss of life is heartbreaking. To have loss of life through the actions of protecting life is even tougher. We stand in solidarity with them through these tough days that have passed and those that are to come. Emergency services volunteers sustained communities, kept them supplied and were critical for their restoration and recovery. To every one of them who took the time away from their family I say we are indebted to you; thank you.

I place on record the acknowledgements of the hard-hit councils and their staff through this event—the mayors, officers and teams who have all worked through sleepless nights and adrenaline charged days—they have given it their all. I particularly acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook and the members of his community who were so hard hit. The reconnection of essential services was a big job. The re-energisation completed by our energy workers was delivered with rapid outcomes. Thanks also go to our Army and Queensland Rail. The recovery and the rebuild work now begins and we on this side of the House will continue to stand with the communities every step of the way to make their communities more resilient.