




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.11 pm): If the member for Nicklin had continued reading the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition he would have seen that point 10 ends with 'in the lead-up to and during the severe weather event'. One thing is clear: the LNP are incapable of caring for the community. They only care for themselves and their political survival. Who could forget ScoMo and his Hawaiian holiday during the Black Summer bushfires from which he returned with the perspective, 'I don't hold a hose, mate.'

A government member interjected.

Ms BOYD: Absolutely; I take that interjection. It is a bit like the vibe we are getting from the other side of, 'I'm not a teacher.' As my community was bunkering down with bare supermarket shelves, sandbagging station queues around the block, people being doorknocked to evacuate, along with school closures—an event not seen in 50 years in the south-east—there was one person in our community we simply could not find, and that was our federal member.

Time constructs make for interesting reading, but perhaps one of the most interesting is, 'Time doesn't mean anything when you're about to have water lapping at your door,' when hot-miked around the climate reality facing Pacific Islands nations with rising sea levels resulting from climate change. Time does matter. Accounting for it in this job is important. We saw Peter Dutton jet off to Sydney to fundraise for the LNP. When repeatedly asked about his whereabouts, his office denied the claims.

For the short while Peter Dutton was in Brisbane, he said that Tropical Cyclone Alfred was very serious and talked about how major the event would be for the state. He ought to know: he was afforded a high-level briefing at the emergency services complex. It appears Crisafulli decided to brief Peter Dutton, the federal opposition leader, before even offering opposition MPs a briefing and an opportunity to ask questions to ensure we could keep our communities informed. Jetting off is A-OK by LNP standards, with key senior emergency personnel approved to head off on leave and, despite a cyclone tearing down the coast, never recalled by this police minister.

We saw an extraordinary set of events with the Premier, who blew up and used stern language—reportedly—with a mayor on a phone hook-up during the event and then came into this place to spruik that his government was committed to being an equal partner with local government. To local government we say thank you. You were the glue that held this disaster response together, along with our frontline emergency services personnel and volunteers. When government members talk about no daylight between response and recovery, perhaps they are referring to the very dark location where they are keeping all of the ministers responsible for managing the agencies that were responding to the weather event—so much so that the Premier's own front bench were in the dark and when they asked

a question on a phone hook-up the Premier hung up the phone on them. He disconnected the phone. The member for Everton talks about showing respect. Well, I have not seen it from the Premier. What I have seen is a premier who blows up and hangs up.

Let us talk about the fire minister, who was asked more than 10 times to come on local radio and talk about the event. She came into this place yesterday and joked about the power being out and people not being able to watch TV warnings. She had the opportunity to go on radio and to alert the South-East Queensland public and she declined. She did not even respond. She is a water minister who could not explain the flood manual and instead ordered Seqwater to hold separate disaster press conferences every single day. As if two were not enough, the media needed to be tied up with three.

Yesterday the fire minister came into this place and, despite four opportunities, she could not bring herself to thank our Rural Fire Service volunteers. Did the Deputy Premier ruin it for everyone, rambling on like an incoherent lawyer for 20 minutes about supermarket shelf stock only to not be able to come good on the promise of supply? Thank God for Energy Queensland, our publicly owned provider, which has the capacity to reconnect our community—something those opposite have spent years opposing. In my final seconds I thank the QRA, which once again has been politicised with another LNP appointment. As if a federal Senate candidate was not enough for the North Queensland recovery, we now see a former LNP councillor appointed, further politicising disaster recovery.