




Speech By
Rebecca Young

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (5.56 pm): I rise tonight because our community was deeply impacted as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. It is a place where I have lived for 43 years and I have never seen an event like this in the Redlands; nor have my fellow Redlanders. We experienced high winds and a large amount of rain. As the cyclone reached South-East Queensland, our Southern Moreton Bay Islands were one of the first areas hit.

Those who know Redlands will know that we love trees, and we have some very big trees in Redlands. Unfortunately, we have a little fewer now. The fallen trees have done real damage to the powerlines and, unfortunately, to a lot of our community members' houses, particularly on the islands of Russell, Lamb, Karragarra and Macleay as well as Coochiemudlo, which was the first to lose power in the event on Wednesday. We knew it was going to be important that we work hard to ensure they received fast support in their recovery. The QPS, Water Police and coastguard worked to ensure that, before SeaLink were able to safely recommence their operations, they got our Energex workers moving. No big machines or trucks were possible, just vehicles that could fit on the QPS barge. That is where our community banded together to assist in clearing the way to ensure the Energex workers could get to where they needed to go to begin the restoration. There were local businesses—family businesses—taking their chainsaws, backhoes, skid steer excavators and sheer muscles to the streets of the islands, all led by the Southern Moreton Bay Chamber of Commerce President, Dan Golin.

I want to acknowledge these volunteers by naming them here tonight so they know their volunteer hours were so appreciated by us. They were: Dan and Michelle from Marley's Place, Jamie and Robyn from J&R Earthworkz, John and Sharon from SMBI Air and Electrical, Steve and Sandy from Russell Island Block and Building Services, Terry from Toolman Property Maintenance, Darryl from DLB Cranes, Chris and Kirsty from Bay Island Property, Shane from Canaipa backhoe and front-end loaders, Brad and Kylie from SMBI Septic Systems and Simon and Kim from Island Life real estate.

Simon and Kim went door to door doing welfare checks for family members when people contacted my office to say that they could not get in touch with their family. It was Simon and Kim who went out and knocked on those doors. I cannot forget the volunteer puppies on the ground—Jess, Dolly and the gorgeous little Daisy—that kept everyone in high spirits while they slept in a shed on Russell Island during the event. The efforts displayed by this group are the true meaning of community, helping community and what resilience really looks like. Their work helped our community get back on track as soon as possible.

The largest impact to our community was power outages, and I want to acknowledge the work the energy minister and Energex did to take the numbers in Redlands from about 4,500 houses just yesterday to only 575 this afternoon. It was a massive effort. In fact, the people in places like the

Sanctuary over-50s retirement village, Thornlands rental village, the Redlands Business Park and Muriel Street at Redland Bay were really doing it tough because they had no water or electricity. All got their power back on today.

I was on the ground before the event assisting our community to get prepared. As I stood at the local shopping centres and ferry terminals, I heard gratitude from Redlanders for the efforts that the government put in to ensure they were assisted in being prepared and straight after the event for the continual updates and support. In fact, I want to read a direct quote from Karly from Bayside Coolrooms—

I was also hoping you could pass this message on to David Crisafulli, he has been such a calming voice throughout this entire disaster. He really has done such an amazing job in keeping calm to what has been a terrifying unknown for people in our state, and for someone like me who suffers anxiety he really has been a reassuring voice. Clear, concise, constant calming nature— THAT is leadership in its darkest hour.

I am going to run out of time; there are so many people to thank. Whilst there was so much work done by everyone, we know there is still more work to go and I am committed as a part of the Crisafulli team to continue to support the Redlands community to ensure there is no daylight between the disaster and recovery.

(Time expired)