




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Mudgeeraba Electorate, Cyclone Alfred

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.31 pm): I rise, first and foremost, to express my thanks, and the thanks of my electorate of Mudgeeraba, to all emergency services workers, including our hardworking SES, the ADF and our local rural fire brigades, for their response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to again visit our local Gold Coast rural fire command centre in Worongary and hear firsthand the extent of their response efforts. It was great to see locals with local knowledge leading the response, and I thank Nicholas Parry for his coordination on the ground, ably assisted by Brad Hauck from Mudgeeraba and Suzie Koenig from Clagiraba.

I am very proud of the incredible rural fire brigade volunteers across our electorate, including: Dan McGuire, Ray Cavanough and the Springbrook Rural Fire Brigade; Janice Sinclair and the Bonogin Rural Fire Brigade; David Lyons and the Gilston-Advancetown Rural Fire Brigade; Greg McKenzie and the Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade; Dean Cording and the Lower Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade; Brad Hauck and the Mudgeeraba Rural Fire Brigade; Ben Naday and the Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade; and Philip Thompson, Peter Yaun and the Numinbah Rural Fire Brigade. Get the picture? I have a regional-rural area. We are all extremely grateful for their efforts on the front line.

As recovery work continues across the Mudgeeraba electorate, I spoke yesterday with crews from Energex and Ergon Energy who were working to restore power at Mudgeeraba Creek State School and thanked them for their efforts. These workers were from across Queensland, with some travelling from as far as North Queensland, Bowen, Charters Towers and Emerald to assist our local recovery efforts. We are grateful for their help in getting our community back on its feet as quickly as possible.

I saw firsthand the speed and efficiency of these dedicated crews when I was out in the electorate yesterday watching them remove fallen powerlines from an electricity pole which had snapped like a twig. I thank the Minister for Energy for urgently getting crews to a live powerline which was down on Beechmont Road. Within an hour it was fixed and residents from Lower Beechmont could drive home to the plateau rather than driving the long way from Canungra.

The sheer magnitude of the damage and the clean-up needed across the Mudgeeraba electorate cannot be overstated. Springbrook received in excess of an incredible 1,300 millimetres of rain. The Hinze Dam is overflowing. Small businesses across the electorate lost power and suburbs like Tallai and Worongary remain without electricity. Many of the usual spots were inundated with water, including the Austinville causeway. Members would know that throughout my time as the local member I have relentlessly advocated for upgrades to this causeway. I have now secured funding for those much needed upgrades, after years of neglect from the former government. Once works are completed, our community will no longer face isolation during heavy rains.

Across the electorate, communication towers were down and the rain did not stop. However, our community is resilient and well versed in such weather events. In Springbrook, Ray Cavanough, Kara Froggatt and the team at the Springbrook Mountain Community Association have their own disaster plan, localised for our community. With thanks to the Minister for Energy, we predeployed a big generator to the Springbrook community before it was cut off to provide power and communications, which made a significant difference to them.

Yesterday, I also visited Merrimac and Worongary, which remain without power, although Merrimac is slated to come back online today. It is, of course, a challenge for crews to access some parts of my electorate, particularly in the mountains and rural areas. I have remained in contact with local colleagues, including Councillor Dan Doran, in relation to the impact of this event on Robina, which was thankfully isolated from some of the worst damage. Like so many businesses and homes across the electorate, the Mudgeeraba electorate office was also affected, with water damage collapsing the ceiling. My team remain hard at work serving our community, albeit from a new and temporary location.

For locals who remain without power, I know how challenging these delays are but I thank you for your continued patience. Work has not stopped to restore services. Just in the last hour, power was restored to Railway Street, Swan Lane and Bell Place, which locals will know as the Mudgeeraba shopping centre and business precinct. These efforts will continue until all homes are reconnected.

In times such as these, we see the very best of our community. I have heard countless stories of locals helping out those in need, including the volunteers who fed locals at the Numinbah Valley School of Arts community hall and locals clearing roads with their own chainsaws where it was safe to do so or offering spare generators to their neighbours. Carl Schuetze at the Tallai General Store provided food whilst Tallai was without power, even though his own shop had no power. There was a helping hand from people like the Mudgeeraba Lions, the Springbrook-Mudgeeraba QCWA and the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church. The magnitude of this cyclone is not lost on the residents of my community, and it will take time to recover.