




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

MOTION

Weather Events, Response

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.27 pm): I rise in full support of the motion as amended by my colleague the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in recognition of the impact of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. This week in the House I have certainly told people about how badly the cyclone affected the electorate of Mudgeeraba. I take my hat off to my colleagues the member for Currumbin and the member for Theodore. We know what it is like when we get hit by freak storms, tornadoes and flooding. What I have found really offensive this week is the opposition absolutely playing politics with a disaster. How insulting. How duplicitous. How hypocritical. They did not ask one question in question time yesterday—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, you are now warned.

Ms BATES:—and there was nothing today. It is appalling. It is insulting. If we are talking about Peter Dutton, he will win the seat of Dickson and hopefully be the next prime minister of this country. I remind the House of January 2024 when my electorate and that of the member for Theodore were destroyed by a tornado that ripped through our area. It was absolutely devastating. Where was the then premier, Steven Miles? I have an article from the *Courier-Mail*, which I will table.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 2 January 2024, titled “Where are you mate?” Premier Steven Miles blasted for taking hols amid floods chaos’ [197](#).

The article with the headline—“Where are you mate?” Premier Steven Miles blasted for taking hols amid flood chaos’ contained a very emotional interview with the member for Theodore, Mark Boothman, who has always stood up for his local community. That was where Steven Miles was the last time we had a natural disaster in our electorate. It is heartless. The member for Woodridge cannot keep using the Binna Burra bell and saying that he was covered in soot and he saved the day. He did not save the day. He was not even there. It was pathetic.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I cannot hear the member for Mudgeeraba because of the noise coming from my right.

Ms BATES: My electorate received 1,600 millimetres of rain in Springbrook. That is not unusual. In Cyclone Debbie, we had 600 millimetres in 12 hours overnight. I live on a floodplain. I have four floodplains in my electorate: the Carrara floodplain, the Merrimac floodplain, the Robina floodplain and the Mudgeeraba floodplain. My roads were already closed on Thursday night. My electorate was

already flooding. The member for Currumbin lives a block away from my sister. I got my sister out of Currumbin Waters that night because I knew that all of Stewart Road would go under and the entire Currumbin Valley and Galleon Way would go under as well.

A government member: You didn't get the member out?

Ms BATES: I did not get her out. She is big enough and ugly enough to look after herself! I got my sister out because I knew that she would not only be flooded in but also have no comms and no power. This is what happens in my electorate. Parts of my electorate went out that have never gone out before. The only suburb in my electorate that did not lose power was Robina. It was like a little doughnut in the middle of my electorate. Places like Merrimac, which has never lost power, were without power for days and days. I was in Springbrook today and they had no comms. The global wireless network went down so they had to use old VHF radios.

The member for Currumbin and I need the federal government to make sure that all of our Telstra towers and backup generators are protected so it does not happen again. Playing politics with this is appalling. Today in Bonogin, there are still trees over the top of powerlines, and people were dicing with death driving under and over live powerlines. I take my hat off to the people from Energex and Ergon. Those blokes came from all over the country to help in Mudgeeraba. It was not just one tree that they were chopping down; there are thousands of trees that have fallen. They are absolutely amazing and they worked through the night.

We also had engineers at the Hinze Dam. The Hinze Dam was closed. No-one could see the spillway because it was too dangerous and they had to make sure it was repaired before they could open to it the public.

Most of my electorate has had no power since Thursday night. There is flooding all over my electorate, we have had no comms and there are live wires down. I take my hat off to David Crisafulli, the Premier of Queensland, because the messaging that he gave to my people meant that we were well and truly prepared. Those on the other side have just politicised what could have been a tragedy in many of our electorates. It is just disgusting.