



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Cyclone Alfred, Recovery; GST Methodology Review Report**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.03 pm): I am pleased to inform the House that work to reconnect all Queenslanders impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred is ahead of schedule, with 96.6 per cent of all impacted customers—some 483,000 Queenslanders—now reconnected. In fact, since yesterday alone, electricity has been restored to more than 17,000 customers across South-East Queensland. The scale of restoration efforts cannot be understated. Energex has patrolled more than 9,000 kilometres of network in response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred—the equivalent of driving to Perth and back—across areas such as Tallebudgera Valley, Currumbin Valley, Burleigh Heads and Palm Beach, which required extensive network replacement rather than simply network repairs.

Reports suggest that at least two million Queenslanders were impacted by Cyclone Alfred's network outages, not to mention countless businesses and not-for-profits. We thank Energex and Ergon crews who have worked tirelessly—some under extreme conditions—to achieve this result. These crews have not stopped—first in responding to the North and Far North Queensland floods and now in responding to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. I can tell the House firsthand how hard they have been working, having seen the sheer scale of the job just in my electorate at the front of Mudgeeraba Creek State School where a power pole was snapped clean in half. That took out power to the school and hundreds of residents in the area, but thanks to the committed Energex and Ergon crews the kids are back at school and residents in that pocket have their power back.

For the 17,000 South-East Queenslanders who remain without electricity, please be assured that restoration work continues and work will not stop until all homes are reconnected. The Energex restoration plan estimates that all outstanding households will be reconnected over the weekend, including in the Currumbin Valley, Tallebudgera Valley and my area in Springbrook. I thank the Minister for Energy for working so hard to make sure that is occurring. For Queenslanders who were affected by flooding or structural damage, Energex advises that a licensed electrical contractor must inspect the wiring to ensure it is safe to reconnect supply. It is also important that Queenslanders continue to report any fallen powerlines to triple-0 and remain clear of fallen powerlines.

With the remainder of my time and in my capacity as Minister for Finance, I wish to briefly echo the earlier comments of my colleague the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership in response to the shocking news that the Commonwealth Grants Commission has recommended that more than \$5 billion of GST revenue be stripped from our state, including \$2.4 billion next year. The commission proposes these funds be instead sent to New South Wales and Victoria. Queenslanders do not deserve to miss out because of the poor planning of other states. The federal Labor Treasurer, Queenslanders Jim Chalmers, should be protecting the livelihoods of his fellow Queenslanders but he is ripping the rug out from underneath us. The Crisafulli government will continue to advocate for Queensland—

**Mr McCallum:** Mr Speaker—

**Ms BATES:**—and we are calling on the Commonwealth government to act in Queensland's best interests and dismiss this unacceptable—

*(Time expired)*