




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

South-East Queensland, Weather Events

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.11 pm): I rise tonight as many Queenslanders are still reeling from the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and they will be for some time—high winds; heavy rainfall; life-threatening flash flooding; homes, businesses and community organisations damaged or inundated with floodwater, as well as extended losses of power to hundreds of thousands of homes across South-East Queensland. My electorate of Capalaba and neighbouring electorates in the Redlands were not sheltered from the impact of Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Hundreds of my constituents still remain without power, but it is in times such as these that we can come together as Queenslanders. I am particularly proud of the strong sense of community spirit across my electorate.

In the days preceding the system, I spent time at the Capalaba sandbagging station. It was tremendously heartening to see the residents preparing sandbags for each other, particularly for the elderly and unwell, to safeguard their homes. The response from emergency services is truly to be commended, with Queensland police, fire, Ambulance Service crews and SES volunteer crews all out across the Redland region.

Likewise, I cannot express my thanks enough to those volunteer organisations and businesses like the Redland Community Centre, STAR transport, the Rock Church at Capalaba. There are too many others to mention, but they are much appreciated for their efforts. The hard work and dedication of all of these brave people is greatly appreciated and undoubtedly reduced the impact on our community.

While Tropical Cyclone Alfred and its effects begin to dissipate, the next stage—recovery—is already underway, providing relief to those affected. One of the most widespread challenges that presented itself was the prolonged power outages that residents experienced. I would like to thank everybody in Capalaba for their patience as Energex continues the herculean task of reconnecting power to their homes. These men and women are working around the clock for those residents still impacted by loss of power. Please be assured that I am working with local Energex teams to have you reconnected as quickly as possible.

On Sunday I opened my office to the residents of Capalaba who did not have power so they could charge their devices. My office met with well over 100 residents who were in need over Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. It was remarkable to see the positivity that everybody expressed, despite the uncertainty and the stressful circumstances.

Our local teachers have also been working hard to make their schools safe for the return of students. As a token of appreciation, I stopped at the Hilliard State School with lunch for the staff to keep the morale high during their clean-up.

I am immensely proud of the way that Queenslanders have dealt with this crisis by coming together and doing the right thing by their families and their neighbours.