



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**


**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Noosa Electorate, Cyclone Alfred**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.56 pm): Last week saw the incredible resilience and tenacity of South-East Queensland communities. In Noosa we were fortunate, with Alfred giving us only a brief taste of what many other communities experienced for days. To fellow MPs in impacted electorates, whether major or minor: our hearts went out to you and continue to. Most frustrating was that we were not able to assist while we were in the warning area ourselves. However, I know that our community will do everything we can in the coming weeks and months to assist.

There are so many to thank. To the Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers for police and disaster recovery: you have our deep gratitude for the fabulous job you did and continue to do as communities start to recover. Thanks also to our LDM group, led by Noosa council, of 35 members incorporating QPS, QAS, QFES, TMR, MSQ, QPWS, Queensland Health, Energex, Surf Life Saving, the state Reconstruction Authority and many more; our incredible volunteer emergency services of the SES and RFS; and, of course, the Lions who kept everyone fed at the refuge centre. Thank you to those sitting daily in meetings with us, BoM, Noosa Hospital hydrologists and more—all very organised, focused and selfless, with clear communication and patience for our many questions as we prepared for the worst. To Police Superintendent Craig Hawkins and the district disaster management group and the team's state emergency coordination centre: again, thank you.

To my fellow residents I express the biggest gratitude. You continued working throughout, whether as a nurse sleeping at our hospitals or a volunteer filling sandbags for days on end, tarping up roofs and feeding others. Noosa got ready, assisted neighbours and friends and checked on our vulnerable. You stayed off the roads, beaches and waterways which alleviated the demand on resources as well as potentially saving lives.

Commentary regarding an overreaction by government was very disappointing. Our community, having gone through the devastating 2019 fires and 2022 floods, knows the impact and heartbreak as well as the long recovery of households, businesses and infrastructure after a disaster. Being prepared for the worst will always be preferable to losses, especially of lives. Even with South-East Queensland having time to get ready, there were many near tragedies through the unpredictability of Alfred, so please give respect to all who have been impacted, those who volunteered and those on the front line by supporting their efforts.

With every disaster we learn more. Alfred demonstrated how good our systems are and where we can make improvements, including income support for non-salaried workers. How lucky we are to live in an era when earlier detection is possible. This would have saved thousands of Queenslanders' lives over the years if available back in time. I give my blessings and gratitude to all. To Alfred: we are very glad to see the back end of you.