



Speech By

**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Hauritz, Mr B; Kurwongbah Electorate, Storms**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.12 pm): Firstly I want to quickly acknowledge the work and life of a friend to many in this place, Bill Hauritz, who passed this week. As the founder of the Woodford Folk Festival with Amanda Jackes, he leaves a legacy few could come close to and he will be sorely missed. My condolences to Ingrid and his family. Vale, Bill.

I want to express my sympathy to everyone affected by recent storms and windy wild weather. I know many homes across my electorate were hit hard during the southern coast severe storms in November. Many locals lost power—me included—across the suburbs of Burpengary, Narangba, Kurwongbah, Whiteside, Petrie, Lawnton, Bray Park and Joyner. Some households lost power for between 12 and 24 hours, while in other parts of my electorate the power was out for almost a week. These outages were evident on the Energex website. My office was inundated with phone calls and emails, as I am sure many other members' offices were too, from constituents who had to throw out their food, constituents who could not go to work and those trying to cope with recovery expenses such as removing fallen trees, repairing damaged property and fixing broken fences. Around a third of the residents in Burpengary Pines, a manufactured home village for over-50s, were without power for five days. I want to give a shout-out to the residents and management there who tried to look after each other while they struggled to stay cool and access fresh food.

I was heartened to hear the announcement on 27 November that disaster recovery assistance had been activated for Moreton Bay. When I checked the list of eligible suburbs, only Kurwongbah and Whiteside made the cut despite clear evidence of severe damage and ongoing power outages across many more suburbs. It is disappointing that I had to write to the Minister for Disaster Recovery to point this out.

While I am thankful the government listened and added Burpengary, Narangba, Petrie, Lawnton and eventually Joyner to the list of eligible suburbs, Bray Park is still missing—a fact I also pointed out to the minister in an email 11 days ago. My office continues to take calls from Bray Park residents who lost food and had damage to property during the storms, and there are plenty of examples on neighbourhood Facebook pages, too. I am calling on the minister to please get this sorted and add Bray Park to the list. I am sure the local council will not stand in your way. If they do, please let me know. With Christmas fast approaching, every cent counts. It is only fair that all families affected by the storms should get our help. That is what happened after ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and what should be happening now.

I will conclude by thanking the hardworking Energex crews who worked around the clock in terrible conditions to restore power to all households as quickly as possible. Those brave men and women—it is dangerous work restoring power and high voltage, I know well—gave up time with their own families, their own showers and their own beds to make sure Queenslanders were safely

reconnected. I thank them again for everything they do. For those who choose to get abusive to our Energex colleagues and friends: please think what they are going through before you do that because they are out there saving us and restoring our power.