




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Macalister; South-East Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.26 pm): Before I begin, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in wishing the member for Macalister a very speedy recovery after some very extensive surgery. I have been lucky enough to know the member for Macalister for many years, even before we served in parliament together. As I have said to her many times since she received her diagnosis, she is one of the strongest women I know. She will absolutely get through this and be back here and in her community doing what she loves most, which is advocating for her community. I know we all wish her well.

No-one can deny that the natural disaster that South-East Queensland and northern New South Wales have faced over the past week has taken a toll. Still today, many in my community and beyond are without power. Some are without the ability to even make themselves a cup of tea or a warm meal. The ramifications of the destruction caused by gale-force winds and flooding will require extensive clean-up and support measures, such as ongoing counselling and hardship grants. There is no doubt that this will be an incredibly costly rebuild.

I make this absolutely clear: the funding that is required to support Queenslanders who have been affected by Cyclone Alfred is crucial. It is not something that the government can skimp on. It is not something that they can play politics with. It is something that they will need to deliver for the sake of Queenslanders. What worries me is the fact that, since his appointment, the Treasurer has made it a full-time job to play politics with Queensland's budget. We know that the LNP juiced up their entire budget update in an attempt to score cheap political points.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjections of the member for Mudgeeraba and minister. She and the Treasurer walked into their MYFER budget update with budget papers, the cover of which said 'Labor's budget'. That shows how extensively they are playing politics with Queensland's budget.

It is not just the opposition saying that: S&P Global director Anthony Walker made it clear that the ratings agencies thought this was a political document. What does that mean for Queensland's budget and Queensland families in the wake of this natural disaster? It will cost so much money to rebuild our communities. What we know for certain is that they have played politics with Queensland's budget which means it will cost more to rebuild, and that means it will cost Queensland families more.

We know that bond markets and ratings agencies have reacted harshly to the LNP's playing politics with Queensland's budget. Queensland's borrowing costs have increased and, as a result, S&P Global changed Queensland's credit rating outlook from stable to negative. Those silly political games that those opposite are playing are costing Queenslanders an extra \$5.2 million in completely unnecessary borrowing costs. Every single dollar borrowed to fund disaster recovery will be more expensive. Rather than getting on with doing the job that Queenslanders elected them to do, they are playing petty politics with Queensland's budget. Queensland will be borrowing at a premium now to

fund recovery because of the Treasurer's decision to not provide a fiscal plan. It demonstrates, yet again, how short-sighted those opposite really are and how fixated they are on playing political games, not governing for Queensland.

We know that Queensland families are worse off not just because of the increase to borrowing costs but because the LNP have no commitments around cost of living. There is absolutely nothing from the LNP about supporting families in times of need—and some cost-of-living relief would be very timely indeed, having just come through another natural disaster. So many families in my community of Logan are telling me just how tough they are doing it and they really do need that cost-of-living support. They need support more than ever. They need those opposite to stop playing politics and actually deliver some cost-of-living relief to Queensland families.