




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events, Sport and Recreation

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.32 pm): As we have seen, ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred has resulted in a major clean-up operation across South-East Queensland. The devastation extends to many sport and recreation clubs, where volunteers who are helping with the clean-up are also dealing with their own hardships at home.

Our local sporting clubs are the beating heart of our communities. That is why we want to help them get back on their feet as quickly as possible. An immediate \$5,000 is available through the Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program in areas declared under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. That now includes areas across South-East Queensland, extending to the Fraser Coast, hit hard by the severe weather. This program provides much needed assistance to sport and recreation clubs to support their immediate clean-up efforts.

It is barely a month now since severe flooding also hit North Queensland, and so far almost 100 sporting clubs have applied for the \$5,000 grants. Clubs such as the Ingham tennis club, Herbert River cricket and the Jubilee Bowls Club in Townsville have already had their grants assessed and approved. Recently I visited Townsville Golf Club to see the extent of the damage. I spoke to president Danny McLoughlin and general manager Mitch Bligh. I was encouraged by a couple of things. They are used to flooding and have had a betterment program which has meant they have changed the location of their clubhouse so that it was not affected, but the course itself was still very water-laden. It was great to see the volunteers out there who want to get this golf club back up and going. I know what it is like to be a golfer who cannot play at their golf course because of the devastation. We get a little shaky and itchy and it is not good for our mental health. It is great to see that they are motivated to get out there as quickly as possible. I encourage North Queensland sporting clubs to apply for these grants. Just search 'Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program'.

In less than two months Queensland has endured two major weather events, but I am confident that no other state in Australia could bounce back from such devastation as quickly as Queensland does. Not matter what is thrown at us, Queenslanders in every community across this great state will always stand together. We want our sporting clubs to get back on their feet as quickly as possible so our communities can continue to lead the active lifestyle that Queenslanders all love. In the meantime, sport and recreation officers will be on the ground assessing damage. We strongly encourage all sport clubs in disaster-affected areas to reach out to them for assistance. It is vital that we get our sporting clubs up and running again, especially in time for the winter sign-on. Queenslanders know that we have their back. The Crisafulli government promised there would be no daylight between response and recovery, and that is what we are delivering.