




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast Region, Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.20 pm): Only a couple of days ago we celebrated Yellow Ribbon Day to honour our Rural Fire Service volunteers who protect lives, homes and properties. They do not ask for much, but they give much to our local areas. This time last year the Rural Fire Service from my electorate of Theodore worked diligently and tirelessly in the electorate of Scenic Rim at the fires at Illinbah, Sarabah and Binna Burra. They went there and put their lives on the line to help those in need.

We appreciate everything that they have done, so it is sole destroying for me to come here today to speak about the state government's decision to not renew its 13-year partnership with the Gold Coast city council. Those fires went into the Gold Coast city council region. We need to ensure that hazard reduction burns are done properly in the Gold Coast city council region. We have 50 per cent bushland in the Gold Coast city council region. It is crucial that we do mitigation burns to prevent hot summer fires from devastating our landscapes and potentially putting at risk people's lives, their properties and their homes, as well as flora and fauna. As we know, a hot fire will destroy everything.

A state government—from either side of politics—needs to ensure that these agreements are upheld and continue after 2022. It is most important for my region and for regions all across the Gold Coast, because the Gold Coast is the epicentre of bushland and it is a selling point for the Gold Coast. I am pleased to say that Deb Frecklington, the leader of the LNP, will work with the Gold Coast city council to reinstate this type of funding to ensure that hazard reduction burns are put in place to protect the livelihoods of my residents and the residents around my region. It is most crucial that that is done.

Again I say 'thank you' for all of the wonderful work of my local rural fire brigades—Guanaba, Coomera Valley and, just outside of my area, Clagiraba. You are the heart and soul of my region. You deserve to be respected. You deserve to have the resources that you need to protect us and protect our properties. Thank you for everything that you do. We owe you a debt of gratitude. We need to ensure that those funding initiatives are kept going past 2022.