



Speech by

LINDY NELSON-CARR

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard 15 September 1998

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): Recently, I was invited by Townsville's QFRA's Station Officer Paul Lange to spend a morning getting a feel for the service provided by these wonderful people of the QFRA. What I believed was to be a simple tour around the building and a briefing on issues turned into one of the most incredible and terrifying experiences of my life.

The boys thought that it would be more effective to educate me by putting me through the paces that are part of their ongoing training package. That turned out to be an exercise of real fear and exhaustion on my part. Although it was a simulated fire, I found that wearing the gear, the inability to see anything and my general state of being out of condition contributed to my acknowledgment that what these people do on a daily basis deserves not only recognition but also intense gratitude. While I climbed, jumped and attended a chemical spill—wearing the full apparatus, I might add—used the jaws of life to cut the roof off a car and sped off to a real accident, I could not help thinking about my renewed appreciation for the firemen and firewomen who put themselves through incredible ordeals for the benefit of the community.

I believe that the emergency services are often taken for granted. The job of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is not just fire fighting, but involves a range of safety issues including road and rail accidents, suspicious spills and a plethora of rescues. The bravery and effort of those people should not be taken for granted and, with the commitments made by Merri Rose, Premier Peter Beattie and Treasurer David Hamill, we will not see a loss of operational capacity and the Queensland fire service will remain world class. The fire service plays a crucial role in every Queenslanders' life and I take this opportunity to thank not only the emergency service workers in Townsville but also those throughout Queensland for a job well done.
