



Speech by

**Mr T. SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE**

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Hansard 21 October 1998

#### **CHERMSIDE FIRE STATION**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (ChermSIDE—ALP) (10.18 a.m.): Next Tuesday the Minister for Emergency Services will be opening a much needed facility in the ChermSIDE area, the new ChermSIDE Fire Station.

**Mr Gibbs** interjected.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I thank the Minister for his support on that. That is great.

The relocation of the old fire station was brought to the attention of three former Ministers over six years, and they have been to the station to discuss this. As well, I have met with the local firefighters on a number of occasions. The need to relocate the station has arisen because of the redevelopment of the Westfield—the former Coles/Myer— Shopping Centre, the difficulties of traffic at the Gympie/Hamilton Road intersection and the problems inherent in locations in residential areas. The location of fire stations must be worked out to give the best response times for fire cover. It is difficult to find a spot that is not inconvenient to local residents. The public consultation over 18 months in relation to the ChermSIDE regional centre resulted in a finding that the station needed to be relocated.

I thank former Ministers, including Mick Veivers, who met with the fires and local people. There was one poor decision—to locate it at the old K mart site—but after public outcry that proposal was shelved. The current site, on the northern boundary of the Prince Charles Hospital, is a good location, although some three houses about 50 metres away will be affected in some way.

I thank Gary "Ace" Hammond, the chief fire officer, and the other members of the local ChermSIDE station for their input into the new design. The new station is modern, it will meet the future needs of the residents of the inner northern suburbs. It is a much-needed facility.

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