



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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JINDALEE STATE SCHOOL FIRE

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): At 3 o'clock in the morning the peace was interrupted by the pressing sound of a fire siren. So close to home, it was the Jindalee State School that was on fire, as I found out the next day. At first it was thought to be a switchboard fault. Q-Build was alerted and were out to assess the damage, along with the principal and me, first thing Monday morning. I immediately asked for a safety check of switchboards in all schools in the local area to be carried out.

The estimated cost of the damage was between \$5,000 and \$6,000. It was later found that the cause was not a faulty switchboard, but that the fire was deliberately lit. It is appalling that such vandalism and total disregard for public property exists. Do the offenders not realise that whatever damage they do, it is the public—the taxpayer—who ends up paying for it in the long run?

Thanks to alert neighbours living around the school, the fire brigade was notified immediately and arrived at the scene within six minutes. Water damage was minimised and the fire was extinguished before more damage to classrooms occurred. I would like to thank the alert neighbours for taking the situation in hand, and I praise the Mount Ommaney fire crew for an excellent and efficient call-out.

Luckily no-one was hurt on this occasion and the incident did not disrupt classes as it was during the holiday break. The efficiency of Q-Build in assessing and organising repairs of the damage is to be commended, and I thank the Minister for Public Works for his assistance in expediting the repairs. I also thank the Minister for Emergency Services for ensuring that the fire services are sufficiently staffed and trained to allow these quick response times.
