



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 13 March 2003

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Dr WATSON (Moggill—Lib) (7.23 p.m.): When we last met on 26 February I put on notice a question to the Minister for Emergency Services inquiring whether the minister was aware that the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service often relies on access to dams and swimming pools when attending to residential fires on acreage properties, because mains water is often located further away than the standard length of hose that fire trucks carry. Because of the drought—at least up until the past couple of weeks—most dams in the area were no longer full. I asked what extra facilities the minister was putting in place to ensure residents on acreage or rural areas serviced by stations such as Kenmore or Karana Downs in my electorate are not placed in jeopardy because of potentially long delays in waiting for backup trucks from other stations.

I raised that question because a constituent told me that he wanted to pump water out of the Brisbane River and was getting the run-around from the state government and the BCC. He wanted to pump water out of the Brisbane River to replenish his dam, because he was concerned about the issue of fire. He was told by the fire brigade that they carry only 120 metres of hose on any truck. His house was significantly further away from the mains than 120 metres. His concern is shared by other people.

Unfortunately, in the early hours of this morning a beautiful old Federation house in Upper Brookfield was destroyed by fire. Members may have seen a report about this on the news tonight. The fire was at 195 Upper Brookfield Road, which is probably only five minutes from the Kenmore Fire Station, going straight down Brookfield Road. The house was located away from hydrants. I am not sure whether there are any hydrants in that area. People have to rely on local water and, in this case, they had to rely on the creek. Fortunately because of the rain the creek was running. However, it was 300 or 400 metres away and, therefore, they had to wait for backup trucks. Being just down the road from me, at 5 o'clock in the morning I heard all of the backup trucks. They made a significant level of noise. By the time they got there the fire was well established and we lost an icon house in the Brookfield area. We were extremely lucky there was no loss of life. That fire reinforces the issue I raised with the minister. I hope he addresses it fairly seriously. A lot of people in my area who live on acreage are very concerned about the lack of services from the Fire Service.

Time expired.