



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Thursday, 11 May 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Emergency Management Queensland; SES Recruitment Campaign

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.12 am): The coming week marks a big step forward for emergency management and services in Queensland. Firstly, from tomorrow key players such as the state's disaster managers, disaster mitigation planners, the State Emergency Service, state government rescue helicopters, the chem unit, emergency service units, cadets and volunteer marine organisations will be brought together under a new name within the Department of Emergency Services. From tomorrow, this division will be known as Emergency Management Queensland. They were previously under the banner of the Counter Disaster and Rescue Services. This name change will further enhance the public image of the state's disaster response capability, provide a readily identifiable identity and reflect the terminology used around the world. The swift and effective response to Cyclone Larry demonstrated that Queensland's emergency preparation and response services are in good shape and this name change will further reflect that.

Secondly, in the Department of Emergency Service there are almost 85,000 volunteers in the State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Brigade, the Ambulance Service, emergency service units and cadets and the marine rescue organisations. Next week is National Volunteer Week and I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers in our state. To strengthen the ability of the SES to respond to emergencies and provide other essential services, next week I will launch a recruitment campaign to help attract more volunteers to the SES. The campaign will help individual SES groups recruit new members and involve press, cinema ads and postcards. It shows that ordinary people do extraordinary things when they are a volunteer with the SES. As a volunteer with the SES people will not only be helping their community; they will also be getting world-class accredited training, making lifelong friendships and having some incredible adventures along the way. During National Volunteer Week and beyond the call is simple, 'Be your best, join the SES.'

I will comment on an article in today's *Courier-Mail*. I commend Trent Dalton for his words in that article. I let Trent know that I am going to use those words. They are marvellous. What he says about Lyle Dobbs and his wife Margaret is marvellous. Thank you, Margaret, for giving us Lyle Dobbs for 31 years. He is at the North Rockhampton shed. I say to the member for Rockhampton that I took the opportunity to look through that shed. It is a credit to SES people who are at that shed. I will quote Trent's words just in case members have not had an opportunity to read them. Trent states, 'You know why SES volunteers wear those big orange overalls?'

A government member: No.

Mr PURCELL: 'It's to hide their wings. And you know why they all wear hats on the job?'

A government member: No.

Mr PURCELL: 'That's right, to hide their halos.' No truer words have been said. Thank you very much Trent Dalton for those words.