



Speech by

Barbara Stone

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard Tuesday, 13 November 2007

SPRINGWOOD ELECTORATE, STORMS

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (10.08 pm): On the evening of Sunday, 28 October a severe storm ripped through the Logan and Beaudesert areas resulting in calls for assistance to SES volunteers. The storm hit Logan east around 8 pm and continued through the night into the early hours of the morning. At six o'clock on Monday morning my electorate was still experiencing heavy rainfall, thunder and lightning, which of course did not help the work being carried out by SES volunteers. Working through Sunday night in storm conditions, these dedicated volunteers continued to work throughout Monday to assist people with storm-damaged properties.

The storm was a frightening experience and standing in my lounge room watching my walls turn into a water feature and then wondering how I stop it raining in my lounge or dining room was quite a surreal experience. However, at a time like this it is comforting to know that one can call someone to help, and that someone is the SES. I want to commend those SES volunteers and other Emergency Services personnel who quickly gathered to provide assistance to residents.

On the Monday morning after the storm the Logan SES had received 38 calls for assistance from Logan residents. They attended jobs in the following areas: Chatswood Hills, Crestmead, Logan Central, Marsden, Shailer Park, Slacks Creek, Springwood, Tanah Merah, Waterford West and Woodridge. The most calls for assistance were received from the Daisy Hill area in my electorate. I want to pay tribute to the SES volunteers from our local community for their quick action and dedication. They regularly provide an exceptional level of support to their local communities and we cannot thank them enough. The damage report from the storm included trees falling on cars or homes or in driveways. The majority of the calls for assistance came from property owners with water coming into their houses through damaged windows or through the roof.

SES volunteers play a vital role in my community. They keep residents safe, especially during storm season, so it is important that the government ensures that these hardworking volunteers are well resourced and trained. That is why I am extremely happy to inform the House that the government has purchased new state-of-the-art flood boats and that Logan East SES will be receiving one of these new vessels. The new boat will be complete with trailer, motor and safety equipment. I am looking forward to the minister, who is in the House tonight, coming down to Logan East sometime soon to hand over that very important resource to the hardworking SES personnel. Rescue boats are an important part of the SES response to flooding and inland waterway emergencies, and they are also a very important part of the search-and-rescue operations performed by SES volunteers.

This week is National State Emergency Services Week. It is a week to celebrate the efforts and achievements of state emergency volunteers. The response to the recent storms is yet another reminder of the vital role the SES plays in the Queensland community. Tomorrow I would encourage everyone to wear something orange as it is Wear Orange to Work Day in order to acknowledge and thank the volunteers from the SES in their communities. I want to thank the SES volunteers in Logan who do such an amazing amount of work for our community. I want to thank their families, who give them their support and strength to perform this role, and their employers, who help them with time off to ensure the operations of the SES continue. There is no doubt that all SES volunteers deserve our thanks.