



Speech by

Hon. Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Hansard Thursday, 20 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Shooting; Climate Change, Disaster Management

Hon. NS ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (10.16 am): I would like to inform the House of an incident during which police shot and injured a woman at Runcorn at around 9.30 last night. I am advised that the woman was a person of interest to the police for a number of property offences committed in the previous 24 hours. Officers entered the premises and the woman allegedly stabbed a police dog with a knife before threatening officers with the same weapon. The woman was transported to hospital, where I am advised she is currently in a stable condition. The police dog was transported to a nearby 24-hour veterinary surgery. This morning it remains under anaesthetic with serious injuries.

The incident that occurred overnight again demonstrates the dangers faced by our police men and women on a regular basis. The Queensland Police Service's Ethical Standards Command is investigating the incident and the Crime and Misconduct Commission has been notified.

On another topic, the effects of climate change present a very real threat to our state and we must be well prepared for a potential increase in natural disasters and emergencies. Queenslanders are no strangers to severe weather events. Over three-quarters of the state's local government areas were flooded earlier this year following cyclonic weather, and the extraordinary storms that hit South-East Queensland so violently in May caused millions of dollars in damage.

The Queensland Climate Change Fund has allocated \$3.37 million to the Department of Community Safety over three years for the development of two new disaster emergency caches. This funding also provides for the purchases of vital emergency equipment such as sandbags, generators, chainsaws, tarpaulins and black sheeting for our disaster caches across the state. Disaster management caches were recently launched at Southport and Runaway Bay, providing 1,400 new tarpaulins to boost emergency responses in the Gold Coast region during the storm season.

In addition, the 2009 election commitment Support Our Heroes will see funding of \$12.98 million over five years to purchase additional vehicles, flood boats and trailers for our hardworking SES volunteers. The Support Our Heroes initiative will also see the state's dedicated Rural Fire Service receive 14 specialist fire appliances, each with a 3,000-litre water carrying capacity and essential communication equipment. A further 965 rural fire vehicles will be provided with fire reflective curtains and diesel driven pumps to improve volunteer safety.

The Bligh government's Climate Change Fund will also provide \$7.66 million over five years to help prepare communities vulnerable to the effects of climate variability. That includes coastal communities at risk from storm surges and sea level rises. A further \$2 million is being made available over three years for the Keeping Our Mob Safe program that supports Indigenous councils, particularly those in the gulf or the cape, to prepare for the disaster risks identified in local disaster management plans. The Bligh government is taking steps to ensure we are better prepared than ever before to respond to the disasters and emergencies that may accompany the threat of climate change.