



Speech by

## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Thursday, 28 October 2010

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### CLEVELAND AMBULANCE STATION

**Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (10.54 pm): I rise to update the House about the senseless and wanton destruction of the Cleveland Ambulance Station in the very early hours of Wednesday, 27 October. The ambulance station in Wellington Street, Cleveland, was set alight and the fire burned out the entire building, causing major structural damage and destroying everything within the building. Police and fire officers quickly attended the blaze, but despite their valiant efforts the building could not be saved. I want to acknowledge the good work on site of our local police, fire and SES personnel.

In addition to the damage to the building, an ambulance vehicle was stolen and set on fire, two others were burned inside the building, along with at least six defibrillators, other equipment, training implements and personal belongings of ambulance officers. I am able to report that a 23-year-old woman from Wellington Point was arrested and charged last night with arson, break and enter and unlawful use of a motor vehicle, among other charges.

The damage is so extensive that the early assessment by fire officers is that the building will likely have to be demolished and rebuilt. The early estimate of the replacement cost of the station is in the range of \$4 million, plus three new ambulances and all other equipment. The cost of the arson attack goes beyond the material damage to the station, vehicles and equipment. The ambulance officers based at the station are doing it tough. The place where they live, call home and work from is now gone. It has been an emotional time for them and their families. I want to commend the ambulance officers of the Cleveland station for their service to the community and for their steadfastness under extreme pressure.

I want to also acknowledge the Queensland Ambulance Service for its quick response that insured minimal disruption to services. I note that a temporary operation centre has been set up at the Cleveland SES until an interim centre can be established and then the station fully rebuilt. I want to particularly acknowledge the following individuals: QAS Area Director Steve Clarke, Cleveland OIC Jamie Smith, the LAC leadership team led by Neville Coventry and Robyn Tennant. Can I also acknowledge the role of both the minister, Neil Roberts, and shadow minister, Ted Malone, for their swift and meaningful response. I appreciate the minister's immediate commitment to the Cleveland community to rebuild the station to its former operational capacity, including all vehicles and equipment. I agree with the shadow minister that a review of security and surveillance at all ambulance stations should be undertaken to prevent further incidents from occurring.

I offer tonight to the minister and government all the resources of my office to assist them wherever possible in the rebuilding of the station in the shortest time possible. As a patron of the Cleveland Local Ambulance Committee, I also look forward to working with the team to do everything possible to support our officers and the service.