




Speech by

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (1.05 am): I rise today to speak about the wonderful work of the State Emergency Service, an organisation I am very passionate about and which I have been a member of for many years. Only recently, we celebrated SES Week. Furthermore, last week, the Logan SES celebrated its awards night to honour all the hard work and dedication of its members. Before I speak about the wonderful work the SES has been participating in over recent times, I would like to give the House an overview of the history of the SES and how the SES started.

In November 1973, a tornado ripped through the Brisbane area and caused extensive damage. The Civil Defence Organisation was activated to assist in the natural disaster relief. The Civil Defence Organisation was created back in 1961 to deal with emergencies in the event of nuclear war; it was never intended that it would participate in helping after natural disasters. I should add that the Civil Defence Organisation did participate in a cyclone event in 1971 and it saw much larger involvement during the 1974 floods which struck Brisbane.

The Queensland State Emergency Service was created to fulfil the need of having a service which had a large capacity to deal with natural disasters, whilst also undertaking a civil defence role just in case Australia was invaded and involved in conflict. In 1975, a then conservative government introduced an act into parliament that created the SES—the State Counter-Disaster Organisation Act. Since this time, the SES has served Queensland with a high degree of pride and distinction.

Over the last 12 months, the Logan SES have participated in multiple deployments. Members have participated in searches for missing people in the Scenic Rim, Somerset and Gold Coast regions. Flood boat crews were recognised at the regional awards in 2012. They participated in the search for a missing fisherman on the Albert River, they looked for a child who was lost near the Logan River and they also managed to recover the body of a missing swimmer from the Hinze Dam. The Logan SES are a very vibrant SES with over 180 members. As I just stated, they do have to deal with some gruesome tasks. I wish them all a very merry Christmas. I certainly thank them for all of the hard work they do. On behalf of the Albert residents, I say thank you.