




Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (12.32 am): I am honoured to rise today to acknowledge the exemplary services rendered by our Rural Fire Service—in particular, those who have worked tirelessly on the Spring Mountain blaze. Mid-afternoon on 15 October, local rural firefighters from the Greenbank brigade, assisted by units from Jimboomba, responded to a fire in rugged and inaccessible terrain. Identifying the risks and the environmental conditions immediately, our volunteer brigades developed an incident action plan that was put into immediate effect. With this swift response to such a dynamic and dangerous situation, a rapid response from full-time and voluntary personnel of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service was possible.

Their coordinated tactics held them in the best position to tackle a challenging situation. At the height of the blaze some 3,800 hectares had been consumed by its ferocious power. As fire weather conditions deteriorated, a significant threat was posed to homes, property and businesses. With more than 180 firefighters and 80 fire appliances being deployed, every step was being undertaken to control and extinguish the blaze. With fire conditions continuing to present themselves, an expected wind change that failed to come about offered a slight reprieve and led to the fire burning itself out. This reprieve was shortly followed by rainfall that effectively quelled the remainder of the fire.

Over the course of just more than a week, this fire ravaged bushland and threatened local property and natural habitats. Though no property was lost, that would most likely have not been the case if not for the rapid response of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. A further tribute to the professionalism and character of the QFRS was demonstrated when a community brief was held at the height of the incident. The presentation, led by representatives from emergency services, moved to reassure locals. Volunteers from across South-East Queensland promptly responded to the call, with crews responding to their blaze from the Lockyer region, Caboolture, Deception Bay and the Gold Coast. Their swift action, unit cohesiveness and drive to serve their greater community is the sole reason a disaster was avoided. Our community owes them a debt of gratitude.

The firefighters, in both red trucks and yellow trucks, worked tirelessly together throughout the incident providing essential command and control, operational and logistical support to the crews on the front line. Their actions represented the integral elements of teamwork and how together real results can be achieved. The combined strength and resources of our rural and urban brigades working together under one banner created a formidable force for firefighting and any other hazard emergency responses.

As we head into what has been described as a tough fire season, our community will rely more and more on the volunteers who put a halt to their lives to save the lives and livelihoods of others. I urge all residents to have an evacuation plan in place for their homes and business. Preparation is the key that may just save lives. I am proud to speak today to recognise, support and honour the efforts of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and all of our emergency services both permanent and voluntary. They are a credit to our community.

(Time expired)