




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2014

MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mundingburra Electorate, State Emergency Service

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (3.04 pm): I rise with a good-news story that could well have ended as a bad one, and that is to inform the House that early last month I put out a call to arms to my community of Mundingburra and indeed the broader Townsville community to answer a plea from the SES—that great organisation that is always there in our hour of need—because it had seen a significant fall in its numbers to the point that numbers had gone down to about 150. In a city of Townsville, I can report that that is below what we need to have a proper functioning SES branch. The reason for the fall is pretty simple, and that is that people really answered the call to arms post 2011 when we were in our hour of need. It is understandable that as people get busy and the need for those services or the perceived need decreases people feel that they do not have to continue to volunteer. As a result, we put out this call to arms. I can report to the House that 120 people turned up for an information night and of that we have secured 57 new recruits for the SES. They range in age from between 16 and 60 but all have one thing in common, and that is a thirst to serve the great community of North Queensland.

Who are these people? Who are these angels in orange? They are your neighbour. They are your sister. They might be the plumber who comes to fix a leaky tap. They are everyday heroes and it is just so appropriate that we reflect on what they bring to our community. In the time of a disaster when these orange uniforms turn up, it is not just about moving the fallen tree. It is not just about putting a tarp on a roof; it is about bringing a sense of hope to a community and a person who is not feeling particularly good at that point in time. I have seen it after Yasi and I have seen it after the tornado that went through Vincent as the local member, but I have also seen it as the recovery minister in places like your own home city, Madam Deputy Speaker Cunningham, in Bundaberg, in North Burnett, right across-the-board. The sense of hope that the SES brings people is just tremendous. Whilst our numbers are now above 200, which for Townsville is fantastic, I again put out a call to arms to the community. To those who feel like they have something to give, it is a very worthwhile organisation and this is a call that we should echo across the state, because not only by joining the State Emergency Service are you helping your neighbour and your loved ones and your community but indeed you are helping yourself become a better person in the great city that you love.