



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 June 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### Rangewood Rural Fire Brigade

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.59 pm): On 25 May I attended the Rangewood Rural Fire Brigade in Thuringowa. This fantastic volunteer based organisation deserves special recognition. This brigade is located on the north-western outskirts of Townsville. It services an area of over 300 square kilometres and is the first brigade to respond into the Thuringowa and, more broadly, the Townsville urban area to assist in a short time frame.

Over the past few years, the Rangewood brigade has grown dramatically, both in membership and response equipment. The Rangewood Rural Fire Brigade can proudly boast being the largest brigade in North Queensland, with a staggering 82 firefighters and support members ranging in age from 17 years to 70 years of age. This brigade has seven vehicles, from its single-cab heavy appliance to an ATV with a 100-litre ultra high pressure firefighting unit and support trailer. The brigade is well equipped to handle its all-risks role in the community and provides a self-sufficient fully equipped strike team of 26 members.

The brigade has developed a strong working relationship with the Army in Townsville, with many Defence and other emergency services personnel joining the brigade. Each year, many members volunteer to work as fire marshals at the now famous Townsville V8 Supercars event and many other community events in the Townsville area.

To keep up with the growth of the membership of the brigade, recently extensions have been completed to double the size of the station's facilities and operations areas. This extension has enhanced the brigade's ability to respond to the local community and the broader northern region, allowing the brigade to operate self-sufficiently during any severe weather event.

I would like to make special mention and congratulate Mr Jim Besgrove, who has been the first officer of the Rangewood Rural Fire Brigade for the past 12 years. Under Jim's direction and his outstanding leadership, he has ensured that this volunteer and community organisation has the direction, vision, ability and capacity to serve the greater Thuringowa community for many years to come.

I say well done to all the volunteers of the Rangewood Rural Fire Brigade. I think they are going to be incredibly busy over the next few seasons as it dries out. I offer my sincere appreciation to each of the volunteers for their dedication, professionalism and service to the community of Thuringowa.