



Speech By Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

State Emergency Service

Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (7.04 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about those who give so much to our communities and ask for so little. Many times in the House I have spoken about the wonderful work of our Rural Fire Service in my area, but tonight I will be speaking about those wonderful members of the State Emergency Service who are celebrating 40 years of unwavering commitment to serving our community.

I was deeply warmed to see within the Queensland State Emergency Service 40-year service book the name Terrence Arthur Chapman, or better known as Terry—a man who is revered by his peers as a legend in the Logan SES. Many members of the Logan SES have had the privilege of being mentored by Terry—a man always willing to give up his time for others. Whether it is heights training, ropes, searches or communications, Terry is a repository of knowledge. Some say he is a walking encyclopedia.

This leads me to another matter that I am rather concerned about, and that is the issue of communication. The QFES for many years has allowed SES units to use the ageing RFA, or request for assistance system. The RFA suffered multiple issues, especially breakdowns in major events, but this system has now been replaced by TAMS, or task and management system. During the initial phases of development of the new system, local councils requested that the system be able to be integrated with their local disaster management systems—systems like Guardian. Throughout the development of TAMS, information was provided from local councils to help with this integration. It is concerning to see that this new system will not be integrated at all with local government systems. That means that, when we have major activations within Queensland, the SES units will receive their tasking via TAMS and then manually enter job data into their respective council disaster management system. In a major event, this could mean double handling of upwards of 6,000 jobs.

In addition, I believe that there is no capacity to record multiple requests from separate sources against a single address. This could result in important details being missed in one or both systems. Why is it that the new system was not integrated with local government systems and therefore creating an extensive increase in the workload for our SES volunteers and potentially causing errors in critical emergency tasking information? This issue needs to quickly be addressed and rectified. As we are now heading into a very active summer storm season and quickly into a cyclone season, I ask that the minister take this issue on and have it investigated and rectified.