



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Coomera Electorate, Fire Ants**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to alert the House to the fact that the northern Gold Coast is under attack. In fact, it is being invaded. Yes, we have many thousands of new residents moving into the gorgeous part of the world known as Coomera, where heaven meets earth, but coming with them—and I seek your indulgence here, Madam Deputy Speaker; I need to show a photo of the culprit to those present—is the fire ant. That is a black and white photo of a fire ant. That is the only one I could capture.

Fire ants are moving into the northern Gold Coast. It is very scary indeed. Since the beginning of January, we have had 52 positive detections on the northern Gold Coast. To give members an idea that they are all over the northern Gold Coast area and that we have to be vigilant: Stapylton has had six detections; Ormeau, eight; Yatala, two; Pimpama, two; Gilberton, 12; Woongoolba, nine; Norwell, seven; Upper Coomera, one; and Alberton, five. So we have to do something about this. I quote an email from Biosecurity Queensland that I received recently. It reads—

I would like to inform you of a recent detection of Red Imported Fire Ants within the Gold Coast suburb of Pimpama.

One fire ant colony, consisting of three mounds, was detected on the footpath on Sunstone Avenue in Pimpama. The ants were reported to Biosecurity Queensland by a vigilant member of the public.

That brings me to the main point that I want to make here today. We have to be vigilant. We have to get out there and start looking for these little terrors—and they are terrors. If you touch them, you will know they are fire ants because they will swarm. They will swarm up your arm, so you have to stay right away from them. There is a wealth of information on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' website at [www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants). You can even send fire ants an email at [fireants@daff.qld.gov.au](mailto:fireants@daff.qld.gov.au), believe it or not, and they will respond to you.

But there are simple things that we can do. This is a simple one and we want to get it out into the community. In fact, I am going to be writing to all of the schools in my community to encourage them to have 'Aka the Fire Ant Tracker' come along and show the children exactly what they have to do. What do they have to do? They have to check, they have to click and they have to send. What does that mean? They have to check to see whether or not they think it is a fire ant or a fire ant nest. They have to take a photo of that, staying well away from it because they are dangerous little beggars. Then they have to send that photo to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to establish whether or not it is in fact a fire ant nest. I will encourage every one of my schools to get out 'Aka the Fire Ant Tracker'.

*(Time expired)*