



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADJOURNMENT

Rural Fire Brigades

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.29 pm): Over the last month I have had the opportunity to advise rural fire brigades in Dayboro and its districts as well as Ocean View about successful funding delivered by the Palaszczuk government. This funding is delivered under the Caring for our Community initiative and is designed to assist community and volunteer groups purchase essential items and equipment.

Over the past month I have had the opportunity to visit rural fire brigades and talk to the dedicated men and women who put themselves on the front line to serve our community. Between these two neighbouring brigades there are about 100 local men and women and this number is growing. Many of our committed volunteers are long serving and I thank them for keeping us safe and protecting us during uncertain times.

The Dayboro and Districts Rural Fire Brigade has been allocated funding of \$4,944. That money will ensure that they can purchase and install a new water tank and redesign and refurbish their communications station so in times of emergency they can do an even better job at responding to crises.

At Ocean View Rural Fire Brigade, \$4,890 allows them to at long last purchase two defibrillators for the trucks. Their work involves not only firefighting, but often they are the first responders to car and bike accidents along Mount Mee Road, as well as others. This injection of equipment will mean that they are able to immediately and effectively provide care and assistance to our community.

It was a real pleasure to talk with these selfless men and women about what motivates them to put themselves in harm's way to give for our community. The majority of these brave locals work full-time jobs and get about with their uniform and gear in the back of their cars so that when they get the call they can be responsive.

With National Volunteer Week wrapping up only days ago, it is pertinent to put on the record that in my opinion these are some of the bravest men and women who we have in Pine Rivers. On behalf of our community we thank them for their efforts.

I am also proud to be part of this Palaszczuk government which has, within its first 100 days, announced that caring for firefighters when they are sick or injured will be a priority. In Pine Rivers I have met with one of my constituents and United Firefighters Union Secretary, John Oliver. The Palaszczuk government will remove burdens previously put on firefighters who develop any one of 12 cancer related diseases. We will make it easier for these brave men and women to access financial assistance. It was a commitment we made to firefighters when we were in opposition and one that I am so proud to see us deliver on. These brave people selflessly go into harm's way for us. The least we should do for them is give them the equipment to get the job done. I am proud to say that that is exactly what we are now doing.