




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

**FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARMS)
AMENDMENT BILL; FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (SMOKE ALARMS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.36 pm): The events of 23 August 2011 shocked and moved the people of Logan. Eleven Logan City residents, including children, lost their lives in the Slacks Creek fire. We gathered, Logan prayed, Logan cared, Logan loved those whom we had lost. As the Labor candidate in 2012, I along with the community gathered in the street for the opening of the rebuild of the destroyed house. The house was built entirely by donated labour and donated materials. Unions, companies and ordinary people came together. It was the community coming together to rebuild what had been destroyed. Eleven pillars stand in the front and 11 trees were planted in the back as a permanent reminder of those who lost their lives. For us they are a reminder that no matter how much the Logan community cared, how much the Logan community loved, how much the Logan community prayed, we could never bring back the 11 lives lost. The bill put forward by the minister tonight means the Logan community is less likely than ever to see the suffering and loss that we saw on 23 August 2011.

I should recognise the passion of Louie and Christine of the Logan House Fire Support Network who came to see me soon after I was elected in January 2015. They instilled in me a passion to see action and a changed policy on fire detection and safety. They gave me the information and encouraged me to research more about photoelectric alarms. We know that photoelectric alarms detect fires more quickly. I installed 10-year lithium-ion photoelectric alarms in my own house. They cannot be tampered with. They are less likely to be tripped by false alarms and they only need to be changed after close to 10 years. Of course, it would be even better if each alarm in each bedroom and living area were interconnected to ensure that my deep-sleeping son and daughters were also woken by their own bedroom alarm, rather than waiting for the fire to spread to near their bedrooms.

I note that one speaker worried about the reliability of wireless systems. However, there are a variety of technologies. Even if interconnectedness does fail—and the technology and products improve every day—it does not prevent the original detector that detected the smoke sounding an alarm. Members should know that in almost all cases multiple alarms would go off, waking the whole house simultaneously. This will save lives. Some of my constituents have very large houses and a fire in one area may block off exits from some bedrooms. In all houses, sleeping families will wake more quickly when the alarms are interconnected. I am confident that once standards are set, prices will quickly reduce.

In my own electorate I have participated in fire safety days and promoted 10-year lithium-ion battery photoelectric detectors bought from local stores such as Browns Plains Hardware. It is time for all Queenslanders to personally follow the law and install 10-year interconnected fire alarms. They should sit down and talk with their family about their household. Every child should know that when their

bedroom's interconnected alarm goes off, they should wake and follow their practised safety plan. We know that the comprehensive fire safety plan for any family relies on the families having these conversations and having alarms that will wake the family. I know that I will be encouraging Logan residents to remember 23 August 2011 and to act to make their families safe. I commend the bill to the House.