




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.23 pm): I rise to speak to the Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016. This bill, as well as the Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015, were introduced in response to the recommendations of the coronial inquest into the Slacks Creek house fire. House fires devastate families and have a deep impact on local communities and, in the case of the Slacks Creek house fire, the whole of Queensland. These bills provide for photoelectric smoke alarms to be installed in houses. They will also need to be interconnected through a hardwired unit installed by an electrician or by a unit with a 10-year lithium battery. Hopefully, that will put an end to tragedies such as that which occurred at Slacks Creek in 2011.

Photoelectric and interconnected smoke alarms will need to be installed in all residential premises in Queensland by 31 December 2026. There will be a financial cost to home owners, but there cannot be a price put on saving the life of a loved one.

Louie, who founded the Logan House Fire Support Network with his wife, came to meet with Robbie Katter and me. He explained to us that the average price of installing the required number of photoelectric smoke alarms in an average four-bedroom home would be about \$750. That is an investment in the lives of families and a small price to pay. The lives of children are so important. As parents, we take care of them in our homes and we entrust the state to take care of them in our schools. That is why I would ask the minister to investigate extending the rollout of smoke alarms to Queensland schools.

Our emergency services do a wonderful job in running into fires as the rest of us are trying to escape them. I thank them and Louie and his wife, Christine, of the Logan House Fire Support Network for the amazing work that they do.