




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Tawse, Mr S

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.41 pm): Earlier this month I had the honour of meeting a genuine Woodridge hero, Shane Tawse, and his family. I was privileged to represent the Woodridge electorate and the Queensland government at an investiture ceremony at Government House when Shane, a Woodridge electorate local, received an Australian bravery medal. With no consideration for his own safety, Shane rushed into a burning Kingston home in the Woodridge electorate to rescue a woman on Christmas Eve in 2015. Shane noticed smoke billowing from a home on Poinciana Street and drove to the street, stopping across the road from the house. Shane saw the second floor of the building was fully ablaze and a woman in the driveway was attempting to extinguish the ferocious flames with a garden hose. When neighbours realised the woman in the home was not outside, Shane left his car and ran across the road. He tried to enter the front door of the home but it was locked and he could not get in through the windows. After several attempts to gain entry from the front, Shane quickly moved to the back of the property and found the woman and her three dogs inside the house. He dragged the woman clear of the home just as the fire engulfed the building, saving her life and the lives of her dogs. Shane is very humble about his heroism and maintains that he did what he thought anyone else in the situation would do.

It is somewhat appropriate that this is the second time Shane has been formally recognised and honoured following on from the Queensland bravery award he received in 2016, as his courage ultimately saved the great-grandmother's life twice. Tests undertaken for smoke inhalation revealed the woman had lung cancer according to the Metro South Hospital and Health Service. In even more good news, the Metro South Hospital and Health Service said that the cancer was successfully removed. Not surprisingly, as is the Woodridge way, Shane told the *Albert and Logan News* that he and the great-grandmother regularly keep in touch. The newspaper reported that if not for Shane's actions the woman would not have seen the birth of her first great-grandchild. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Woodridge community, I say congratulations to you, Shane, and thank you again for your courage and your selflessness. You are an example to all of us and represent the very best of the Woodridge electorate and our great state of Queensland.