



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Cricket Competition, Guns and Hoses**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.31 pm): It is great to have the Minister for Police and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services sitting beside me because on Saturday, 20 October, the fifth annual Guns and Hoses Twenty20 cricket competition was held once again at our beautiful Riverway precinct in Thuringowa—which, as members know, is just off Riverway Drive. This event has become quite popular with the broader Townsville community as it brings together teams from our local emergency services of police, fire and ambulance. The aim of this event is to raise funds for the Townsville Hospital dementia ward via the Townsville Hospital Foundation.

This year two additional teams were welcomed. Fittingly, one was from the Townsville Hospital itself and the other one was from the Australian Defence Force Townsville 3rd Brigade. This is quite special, as historically Townsville's emergency services work closely with the ADF in times of need, such as responding to natural disasters in North Queensland.

My observation is that this event truly encapsulates bringing our local civilian emergency services, health and ADF together for a good cause. I can report that 2,500 people attended this free community event. On display was a range of emergency service vehicles and equipment. Stallholders shared community information and there were free rides and face painting for the kids. I thank all the sponsors and supporters for helping to make this happen. A total of \$4,000 was raised and presented to the representatives of the Townsville Hospital dementia ward.

Good camaraderie was shown between each of the competing teams, with the Queensland Police Service once again winning against the QAS male team and the QFES male team in the main game. The ADF were the victors over the Health team. Coming from an ambulance background myself, I am happy to report that the QAS women's team defeated the QPS women's team.

Of particular note, I wish to highlight and commend the efforts put in by the following organisers from the Guns and Hoses committee: representing the police were officer Les Groves—and his wife Rachel Groves, who is a nurse—and officer Troy Tucker; representing Fire and Emergency Services were Mr Scott Dewar and Ms Melanie Banks; and representing the Queensland Ambulance Service—and I know one of these people quite well—and the Kirwan Station Local Ambulance Committee were Mr Stephen Wilen, Ms Amanda Harper, Ms Jenny Floyd Jones, Ms Rachel Floyd Jones, Mrs Karen Walz and Ms Chantal Seymour.

The QAS had over 150 people attend their CPR simulation as part of their display. Due to the contribution of all of these hardworking volunteers and other staff, their efforts helped to bring about the success of this free community event. I commend and thank them all for their outstanding dedication to the community. I share this with the House as it was an incredibly long day, starting at 9 am until the pack-down at 9 pm. I have been a sleeve sponsor of this event for a number of years, and I will continue to back this great event. All of this came together through a collaboration of work for a very deserving local charity in our own Townsville community. I say well done to all of our emergency services for holding Guns and Hoses.