




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Baldwin, Mr D; Johnson, Mrs D

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (8.55 pm): I rise to inform the House of two Callide constituents who have received honours of the highest award. Firstly, Mr Donald Baldwin AFSM of Thangool has recently been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal approved by the Governor-General. Today Mr Baldwin was presented with his medal recognising his distinguished service as a member of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for 51 years. During this time he served the Callide Valley and Thangool community fire brigade, including the role of regional captain. He is currently the captain of the Thangool Auxiliary Fire Station as well as the first officer in the Thangool Rural Fire Brigade. Don teaches fire safety at the local Biloela State School as well as instructing the cadets at the Thangool fire station.

Don was awarded for his leadership and commitment. Since 1967 he has been involved in the operations of the Thangool fire brigade, ensuring resources are appropriately placed throughout the district, working on mitigation activities, delivering fire education to children and seniors, and having a general commitment to the areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. I thank the Australian Fire Services for recognising Don's distinguished service and I congratulate him on his well-deserved award.

Secondly, I want to congratulate Mrs Dell Johnson OAM of Taroom. Mrs Johnson was nominated and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the community of Taroom. The medal is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition. Dell is a busy lady who has in the past declined nominations for Australia Day awards as she does not believe that her community service deserves the award. Dell runs the post office business throughout the day and at night cooks for either palliative care catering services or delivering Meals on Wheels. She is an organiser. Any local event in the Taroom and Wandoan districts usually has Dell coordinating the catering services. Funerals are catered for at no expense just to help families in their time of need.

The palliative care group was started by Dell many years ago to help the families of people suffering with a terminal illness. This group is well known locally and in nearby towns for the amount of equipment that it makes available to the sick and disabled people. There would hardly be a weekend go by that Dell is not catering for a fundraising group or for people in need. Her involvement extends even to the local fishing competition and fundraiser held annually in Taroom. No matter what Dell thinks, Taroom locals believe that she is highly deserving of this award and I congratulate her—Dell Johnson OAM.