




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bushfires, Binna Burra Lodge

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): I am pleased to report to the House that the Palaszczuk Labor government along with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Queensland industry have acted swiftly to assist displaced workers at the Binna Burra Lodge following the terrible bushfires in the Scenic Rim last week. Yesterday around 50 former employees of the lodge attended a workers transition session in Beechmont with some of Queensland's leading employers and other support services on hand to support, guide and reach out to the workers. I am pleased to report today that the first job has been secured, with another 40 workers with interviews lined up in coming days in a range of hospitality positions including front office, food and beverage, maintenance and housekeeping.

Over the past week or so we saw a great example of the state government, council and industry working together to get a much loved iconic business and its hardworking employees back on their feet. There has been a wonderful response from employers both big and small who I want to recognise and thank this morning, including Accor, Spicers Retreats, O'Reilly's, Club Training Australia, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and City Aquatics amongst others.

State and federal government agencies and support services as Lifeline and Red Cross as well as Centrelink were also on hand to help the displaced staff link with employers and other training and upskilling opportunities to make their transition easier. Along with the work being done by the task force led by the Queensland government to fast-track economic recovery, we are determined to offer all the assistance we can to bring Binna Burra back from the brink and forge a new path through the bush.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, Minister. Members on both sides of the House, there is too much general conversation. Take your conversations outside because I would like to hear the minister's ministerial statement.

Mr DICK: The task force has representation from eight state government departments and has drafted an action plan which includes restoring road access and electricity, removing hazardous waste, obtaining water access and permits, fast-tracking planning approvals, and repairing walking trails. Of course, our primary concern is for the workers and yesterday's workers transition session shows that the resilient, positive and generous attitude of Queenslanders is alive and well.