



Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Leach, Commissioner G**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.02 am): Last Thursday marked a new chapter for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services with the appointment of Mr Greg Leach as the new commissioner. Commissioner Leach brings a wealth of experience to the role, having spent the last 32 years working in emergency services. He is a proven leader. He joins QFES from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of Victoria, where he served as acting chief executive officer and chief officer. Prior to that he held senior positions with the Country Fire Authority and Ambulance Victoria. He is a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Preparing for and responding to natural disasters has always been part of Queensland life. We are the most natural disaster prone state in Australia, but now we face the challenges that climate change presents in understanding and preparing for current and future natural disasters. I am confident that under Commissioner Leach's leadership QFES will continue to provide best practice prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to help build a more sustainable and resilient Queensland.

Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing has been at the helm of QFES for the last five months, and what a challenging time it has been. Mike has done an outstanding job leading the team through some of Queensland's darkest hours. Managing more than 1,800 active fires is no easy feat, and Mike has led with great compassion, strength and dedication. Mike will remain acting commissioner until Commissioner Leach takes up his appointment in early December. I acknowledge and thank Mike for his continued service and welcome Commissioner Leach to the QFES family.