



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Ninderry Electorate, Bushfires

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): Last week we observed how our brave, dedicated and hardworking fireys, police and other emergency services worked around the clock to fight the bushfires that threatened Peregian Springs, Peregian Breeze, Peregian Beach and Weyba Downs.

I saw the first puffs of smoke from my office window at around 4.30 on Monday afternoon. As the smoke grew and turned black, the sound of sirens confirmed an emergency was unfolding. Our local disaster management coordination teams, led by police Superintendent Darryl Johnson and QFES Assistant Commissioner Gary McCormack, quickly sprang into action. As the fire raced north-east thanks to a howling south-westerly wind, an emergent situation was declared and the enormous task of evacuating over 4,000 residents commenced.

At the peak of the fire at around 10 pm that night, there were over 100 fire trucks and almost 40 police units deployed to save lives and properties in our community. A wall of around 20 fire trucks held the line as the fire rapidly approached Woodland Drive at Peregian. I have been told that it came at them 'like a freight train', but each firefighter, both volunteer and full-time, knew that Woodland Drive was the last line of defence. If it got past them there, there was nothing stopping it racing off towards Noosa.

As we watched the sun rise on Tuesday morning, it became clear that our emergency service personnel had held the line and had saved our community from disaster. We will continue to count the costs in the days and weeks to come and of course the heavy emotional and psychological toll on our local community.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our emergency services. If it were not for their quick and coordinated response, the damage and destruction would have been much worse. These brave men and women do not ask for awards or rewards, but they do deserve our acknowledgement. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.

Similarly, the countless volunteers and the wider community who rallied together to provide help and support to those forced to evacuate their homes also deserve to be acknowledged—like the members of the Coolum Beach Surf Club who worked through the night at the evacuation centre established at their club; the Salvation Army volunteers who manned a barbecue around the clock at the forward command post; and the steady stream of locals and local businesses who donated blankets, bottled water, pizza, baked goods or opened their own homes to others who had been displaced.

I know that I speak on behalf of my whole electorate and on behalf of every member in this place when I place on the parliamentary record our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who played a part in protecting our community during the fire emergency last week. With the severe weather conditions facing us again this weekend, I remind everyone to exercise caution and to follow safety warnings.

*(Time expired)*