




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Peregian Beach, Bushfire; Ninderry Electorate, Neighbourhood Watch

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.06 pm): At about 7.30 this morning the communities of Coolum and Peregian collectively held their breath as dark plumes of smoke rose from the dunes at Peregian. It is only about six weeks since we saw devastation unfold there. Before 8 am the police had declared an emergent situation. I am told that about 350 emergency services personnel—including fireys, police and volunteer fireys—started battling the fire and taking on the task of evacuating residents, who only too recently were evacuated and only recently returned home. I am happy to report that by lunchtime the fire had been contained, thanks to the help of McDermott helicopters, which dumped 3,000 litres of water onto the fire. By lunchtime the fire had been contained and residents were allowed to return home.

I acknowledge a Neighbourhood Watch group in my electorate. Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch was started three years ago by a community champion by the name of Edith Blank, whom I have spoken about previously in this House. She took on the role of coordinator of that local Neighbourhood Watch branch. Edith is a passionate community advocate. Thanks to her skills and experience, she has helped the group evolve into one of the most successful Neighbourhood Watch groups in the country.

I am proud to report that in those three years Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch has donated more than \$60,000 back into our local community. That is an awful lot of cake stalls and sausage sizzles. It is an awful lot of blood, sweat and tears. It is an awful lot of volunteer hours spent planning and staging successful events, like their annual fun run and skate competition, which bring our local community together. Importantly, it reflects a shared sense of purpose and vision. It is one of many reasons I am so proud to represent not only Bli Bli but all of the communities that make up the Ninderry electorate.

Not only are they champion fundraisers; they also have a much more serious role, acting as the eyes and ears for our local police. Their advocacy for change to the youth justice system, which I am also passionate about, is helping shine light on the need for tougher laws for repeat juvenile offenders. Communities like Bli Bli and many others across the coast should not be held to ransom by gangs of youths causing mischief and much worse. I thank them for their ongoing commitment to helping build safe, connected communities and the success of their many campaigns to date. Keep up the great work.