




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Vogler, Ms S; Nanango Electorate, Bushfires

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (7.01 pm): Tonight I would like to wish a member of the media gallery all the best for her future. For more than a decade Sarah Vogler's by-line has been at the top of political reports in the *Courier-Mail* and the *Sunday Mail*. As the Speaker has mentioned, this is Sarah's last parliamentary sitting week in this House. Fairness and professionalism have been hallmarks of her longstanding and valued contribution to Queensland politics.

From election campaigns and estimates hearings to the everyday arena of state politics, I have always enjoyed working with Sarah. She is diligent in attending almost every major LNP event, with pen and pad in her hand. Sarah broke stories first, told her stories fairly and pursued leads fearlessly.

Over the past three years, Sarah has been the *Courier-Mail's* state political editor. Her leadership of the team has delivered compelling and professional journalism to all Queenslanders. Sarah will certainly be missed. On behalf of the Liberal National Party, I thank Sarah for her contribution to state politics and wish her all the very best for her future career.

I also place on the record my thanks to the Emergency Services workers and volunteers who have fought so hard to protect communities in the Nanango electorate and right across Queensland, including Yeppoon. They have gone to extraordinary lengths in extreme conditions, sometimes even risking their lives, to protect us. Acting Inspector Bruce Groer has shown me where the fires came right up to the edge of Kingaroy and spoke of the amazing job that the hardworking crews did to protect local properties and infrastructure.

In the southern part of the Nanango electorate, more than 20,000 hectares have burned across the Crows Nest and Somerset region. That was the start of the Pechey fire, which has burnt all the way around into the Somerset region. Local fireys have been aided by New Zealand firefighters. On the weekend David Littleproud, the federal member for Maranoa, and I met with them and the local crews. Local fireys have worked hard to save some 1,400 homes. My thoughts are with the four local property owners who have tragically lost their homes.

Crews have also battled difficult conditions near Killkivan at Black Snake, near Jimna, Kilcoy, Villeneuve, Monsildale and Kinbombi. On behalf of the community, I express my sincere thanks for their diligence, professionalism and determination to fight the fires. I wish them all a very safe and merry Christmas.