



Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

O'Neill, Ms S; Redlands Electorate, Emergency Services

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.09 pm): Our Redlands community lost an incredible lady on Sunday. I lost a friend and one of my biggest supporters. Shirley O'Neill was a life member of our party. I know that she will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Our deepest sympathies go out to Shirley's daughter Vicky and her family.

Our frontline personnel and volunteers are simply incredible, and I place on record my thanks to all who have fought and continue to fight our bushfires across Queensland—our QFES personnel, rural firefighters, SES, rangers, local disaster management teams, police and paramedics. Currently, fires are burning on Minjerribah. I know how hard all our disaster response teams are working to ensure that they protect our community. I make special mention of Mike Tait from Redland City Council. He leads disaster management in council and is doing an incredible job in proactively working to ensure all Redlanders now have a disaster action plan in place.

Across the weekend I attended a number of events organised to discuss fire and disaster management in our community. I cannot stress how important it is to have a plan in place. These meetings were a timely reminder for our locals to think and act now to tidy up their backyards, clean out the gutters, talk to neighbours and think about putting a plan in place.

I also refer to the wonderful work of our Macleay Island Local Ambulance Committee, which has been going strong for over 25 years. They are a deeply passionate group that not only provide incredible support to our island communities when disasters strike but also work closely supporting our unique island paramedics and providing information and training to our community in CPR and first aid. I had the pleasure of attending its CPR in the Park events—great days and received well by all in our community.

The Macleay Island Local Ambulance Committee Secretary, Cheyne Collingwood, brought to my attention issues surrounding paramedic resources on the island. When we live on an island and a medical emergency arises, it is a little bit more complicated to get to the hospital. It involves either a helicopter airlift or a ride on the *Kitty-Kat*, our dedicated ambulance ferry. Similarly, our local pharmacist, George Economou, has raised concerns in terms of paramedic resources. Our paramedics are taken off the island in the patient transport process to ensure the best care as our patients traverse Moreton Bay to get to the mainland. The Macleay Island Local Ambulance Committee has coordinated a petition on the issue of paramedic resources for our island community. I table for the House its petition from over 2,000 community members seeking remedy to this resource shortfall.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding paramedics assigned to service the Southern Moreton Bay islands and Kitty Kat transport [1567](#).

I am pleased also to advise my island community that this week I wrote to Minister Miles requesting a meeting with all stakeholders to resolve this issue. I intend to stay close to this matter to ensure that our island communities have the best access to our paramedics when they need it most. In

conclusion, we are blessed in the Redlands and indeed across Queensland to have the world's best in emergency and disaster responders—from our fireys to paramedics, rangers and SES personnel. We would really be lost without them.