



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Redlands Electorate, Maritime Safety; SES Week

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.09 pm): Redlanders love the water, they love boating, they love fishing and they love our mighty Moreton Bay. Why wouldn't they? It is the most spectacular coastal region of South-East Queensland. It has been wonderful to chair our government's War on Wrecks Taskforce. We have continued to blitz in the clean-up of abandoned vessels across the state and, importantly, work hard on education and enforcement of good boating practices. This clean-up has had a huge impact in Moreton Bay. Our islands had long been a dumping ground for irresponsible boat owners.

Earlier this month it was great to announce on behalf of our government a new maritime enforcement team to hit Queensland waters as we head into summer to help stem a rise in boating incidents. It is a fantastic collaboration across partner agencies Queensland Water Police, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and MSQ. It is really great to see agencies working together. The team of specially trained Maritime Safety Queensland officers have rolled out across South-East Queensland. They began their mission on Gold Coast waterways with a special operation over the long weekend. Over 200 notices were issued to boats across the weekend for safety breaches. Unfortunately, we have seen that the number of fatal marine incidents is on the rise. With the summer boating season still ahead of us, this safety campaign could not have come at a better time. These officers will be out on personal watercraft. This helps them be a bit more agile to get into areas they might not have otherwise been able to get into.

On the weekend I also hosted a Blue Water Review with QFES assistant commissioners John Bolger and Joanne Greenfield. I am very grateful that they gave up their Sunday afternoon to come out to our beautiful part of the Redlands, always going above and beyond—just like our Volunteer Marine Rescue Victoria Point and our Redland Bay Coastguard volunteers. It was terrific to hear about the work being undertaken in the review and the potential benefits of bringing these two organisations together with the support of QFES. I want to thank Redland Bay Coast Guard Commander Jason Boon for his ongoing participation and also VMR's Doug McKenzie and Neville Brown. They lead wonderful groups of volunteers in water rescue, helping our boating community stay safe and performing some of the most incredible rescues.

This week is also SES Week and right across Queensland we know how amazing our SESs are. Our Redland SES unit is super amazing. Last week it took out three of the top four awards and several of our members were recognised for their contributions at the SES regional awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of our Redland SES members. We are really proud of all of the work that they do. They took out the honour of Regional SES Operational Response of the Year, Regional SES Unit/Group of the Year and Regional SES Volunteer of the Year went to Tim Willis. Congratulations also to Chris Evans, Helen McKenna, Rob Hurren, Dan Tuckwood, Gemma Kuhn, Justin Kirby, Anne-Marie Bennett, Alex Johnston and Dan Tuckwood—all medal recipients.

Finally, I want to give a huge shout-out to my Redland District Special School athletes who are competing for Met East in the state athletic titles in Cairns this week. I know they will do us all very proud and have a fantastic time doing so.