




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bushfires, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.42 pm): I would like to put on the record my absolute heartfelt thanks to all of our Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel for their efforts over the past couple of weeks. We have had fires in the Scenic Rim; Southern Downs; the Gold Coast; Lowmead, which is near Bundaberg; and Peregian. We have had fires from the cape right down to Coolangatta. It is time to recognise our wonderful Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—our volunteers, our rural fireys, our SES—and the absolutely wonderful job they do.

Bushfire season has come early. This has been a fear for a long time. We are now in September. We have until probably January before we see any sign of a wet season, if we see a wet season. It is going to be a long and hard bushfire season. We need to thank those people who, across Queensland, put in their lives, time and effort to try to save our properties and our lives. I would especially like to congratulate and wish all the best to Mike Wassing, who is our Commissioner for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, as well as the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, the Minister for Police and Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll and her team as we go through a difficult couple of weeks. Yes, we have a little bit of a reprieve, but we only have to go outside today and walk around and feel the heat. There is grass that is still going to burn. We are going to see more bushfires this season.

I would like to give a special shout-out to the members of our Queensland rural fire brigades. These people volunteer their time and put their lives and their work on hold to fight fires. I call on employers who have rural firefighters in their employment to allow them to stay out there to try to help contain these bushfires that are burning throughout Queensland.

My heart also goes out to all of those people who have lost their homes. As Queenslanders, we are going to come together and will make sure that we do everything possible to get their lives back to some sort of normality as soon as possible. Queenslanders are certainly with them. I would also like to thank all of those volunteers who make the sandwiches. They make sure that our firefighters, our rural firefighters and everybody else involved is fed. They do a wonderful job. These people from charities and community groups take the time to make the sandwiches and other supplies. They should be commended. We will really need them over the next couple weeks.

I would also like to thank all of our aviation firefighters—those people who bomb the fires from the sky. When those fires come close, they are a godsend. I would also like to pay a special tribute to Ian Stewart, who is setting up the recovery operations. I wish him all the best in the recovery operations. We need to come together to make sure that the whole community recovers together.