



Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Rural Fire Brigades

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise tonight to talk about my wonderful rural fire brigades: Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade and Coomera Valley Fire Brigade. During this summer period they have had a very busy time on the northern Gold Coast. They were rushed off their feet with multiple blazes around the Maudsland area at Wongawallan. They even went out towards Main Beach. To give members a bit of an idea as to how busy they were, on 28 November they attended a fire at Elevation Drive which they quickly put out in very dangerous conditions. The winds that day were quite strong, and if it were not for their quick reaction that fire would have spread through the Wongawallan area and posed a serious threat to houses. On 14 January there was a large fire at Maudsland on the new crushed quarry land that borders housing estates; they attended Link Road on 17 January; they responded to a fire on 19 January; and on 20 January we had a large fire around the Maudsland area which put a lot of houses in jeopardy. I want to give a big shout-out to Keith Stewart and Cameron Neville, two firefighters who single-handedly protected a house on top of a very steep ridge. These guys did a fantastic job in protecting those individuals' property.

I say to the first officers of those brigades—Brendon from Guanaba and the newly appointed first officer Wayne from Coomera Valley—that you should be very, very proud of what your volunteers have achieved during the summer period. Just to show how much the local community appreciated them, during the Maudsland fire at about nine o'clock at night a lovely lady delivered a lot of pizzas to the rural fire brigade, which they were very grateful for. They made sure that both brigades got enough food—they did not scoff it for themselves—so I would like to say thank you to that lady. It was a truly beautiful thing to do.

I highlight the importance of being prepared for bushfires. Preparing a week beforehand is not good enough. People need to do proper firebreaks and ensure their gutters do not have leaves in them. I know that the rural fire brigade will be speaking at a community meeting in the very near future just to push this matter forward.