



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Queensland Ambulance Service**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): Given this is my last contribution during this term of government, I wish to set the record straight on a few things that some people in this House and the *Courier-Mail's* Steven Wardill seem to have a recent interest in, such as my former career as a critical care paramedic with the Queensland Ambulance Service. I have a very proud history in the QAS, starting in 1990. I continued my honorary service during the first term of government, only stepping down given the enormous workload of the health committee, which I proudly chair. However, when COVID-19 came along there was a national calling for more nurses and paramedics from agencies and services. I wanted to do more for my community of Thuringowa and not waste 28 years of clinical service. In March this year, with the support of the Premier and the health minister, I did reapply to the QAS as an honorary ambulance officer at the Kirwan station. I went through the entire reapplication process, including a medical. I table the letter QAS provided me informing me of my successful appointment as an honorary ambulance officer at Kirwan station, dated 17 May 2020.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 May 2020, from Senior HR Consultant, Townsville Local Ambulance Service Network, Ms Sallyanne Lawson, regarding the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, being engaged as an honorary ambulance officer [1622](#).

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 March 2020, from the Senior Payroll Officer, Queensland Shared Services, Ms Cheryl Pennington, advising of the employment details for Mr Aaron David Harper [1623](#).

I also have an application with AHPRA, who recently contacted me regarding my paramedic registration. It provided positive news regarding its progress in recognising my previous 50,079 hours of service. I table that statement of service from QAS and a letter from the QAS medical director, Dr Stephen Rashford supporting me in my aims.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 8 May 2020, from the QAS Medical Director, Dr Stephen Rashford, regarding Mr Aaron Harper's application for registration as a paramedic [1624](#).

This has included me passing my annual core skills, which I have recently done. I thank and support the team from the Clinical Support Unit in Townsville. I was pleased to join four of the six newest graduates whom I congratulated on their excellent choice of career. It is part of being a proud local MP that I choose to volunteer and do these things to help my community in great times of need.

I recently completed a shift at Kirwan station, and I know how excited the officers are that they will soon have a new Kirwan Ambulance Station to work in for which I lobbied and worked hard. It will house 60 staff and 10 new ambulances. I look forward to opening that new station. I might have a bias for emergency services, because they are the people out there each day on the front line, and I am proud to be associated with them.

In times of need we have to deliver more to meet demand, like we have done with our police in Townsville. With regard to our hardworking police, it is this government that backs them and the LNP that sacks them. We have delivered 104 additional police, and the LNP sacked over 300 police staff. I

want to thank the Kirwan police for last night's effort, Operation Spring Clean, in which there were 12 arrests and 20 charges. I am very proud to remain a part of QAS. I am also proud to be a member of this government that has the back of the people of my community of Thuringowa, whether it is delivering stage 1 of Riverway Drive—and I pledge I will get stage 2 done. I thank the people I have had the pleasure of working with during this term of government.