



Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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**LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.58 pm): Bushfire management is a dynamic, fast-evolving and ever-changing area. With each disaster we learn; with every technological advancement we learn. It is for this reason that QFES considers the Queensland Audit Office report No. 10 closed. This report was based on the Black Friday bushfires that ravaged Victoria in 2009. That was 11 years ago in a different state. Much has changed in 11 years. In 2009 Nokia mobile phones were using 2G and they were the most popular on the market. Only one in 10 people had an iPhone. I was working as a paramedic in Mareeba and the concept of a coordinated emergency services body was still four years away from becoming the QFES that we know today.

QFES's ability to prepare for and respond to bushfires has progressed well beyond what was recommended five years ago. We always strive for best practice, because the safety of all Queenslanders relies on it, but the reality is that a number of the QAO recommendations are no longer considered best practice. In terms of predictive intelligence and fire behaviour modelling tools, QFES has well exceeded the QAO report. Our fire behaviour analysts now use cutting-edge programs such as Phoenix and Sabre to simulate and analyse active blazes. If there is any question as to the effectiveness of these tools, one only needs to look at the firefighting efforts at Gracemere in 2018, efforts described by IGEM as exceptional.