




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Infrastructure

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.08 am): Mr Speaker, I join with you in adding my thoughts around that tragic incident in the Far North. In addition to that, my thoughts are with our QFES firefighters this morning who attended a significant incident in Brisbane. I know that that will be affecting our crews significantly throughout the day.

Since taking office in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$156 million in state-of-the-art facilities for QFES, supporting more than 250 Queensland jobs. Our ambitious capital works program has delivered 28 new stations and four major upgrades across the state.

It was a real privilege to visit places like Charleville, Roma, Mackay, Horn Island, Dirranbandi and Mount Ommaney to celebrate the opening of these new facilities. We made a commitment to the people of Queensland to rebuild frontline services, and 28 new stations and counting is a pretty solid effort. Building modern facilities ensures communities can feel safe knowing that our crews are properly equipped and ready to respond at a moment's notice. QFES responds to a wide variety of incidents from road traffic crashes, structure fires and specialist rescues to large-scale emergencies such as bushfires, cyclones and floods. New state-of-the-art facilities ensure our firefighters have greater operational response capabilities to meet communities' needs well into the future.

While QFES's priority will always be the preservation of life and property, its capital works program has the added benefit of supporting jobs in Queensland. More than 250 jobs have been supported by the construction and upgrade of QFES facilities. That means local tradies, local suppliers and local jobs. With a 2019-20 capital works budget totalling some \$44 million, there have been many more station openings to attend. Later next month the member for Thuringowa and I will celebrate the opening of the Round Mountain Rural Fire Brigade—something that the member has been incredibly passionate about. I also know that the member for Sandgate has been closely following the progress of the new Bracken Ridge station which, I am pleased to report, is ahead of schedule. The building of the Bracken Ridge station has supported 22 construction jobs, and what an asset to the community it will be.

Even the member for Nanango gets to partake in the celebrations and must be happy that the Palaszczuk government is replacing both the Esk and Kilkivan stations in her electorate. The member for Burdekin will appreciate our investment in the Clevedon Rural Fire Brigade and will be thrilled when that new station opens. Then there is the Rathdowney replacement facility for Scenic Rim, which we know saw devastating fires this year. The government has invested \$2.1 million in the Rathdowney build because Queenslanders from all corners deserve a world-class emergency service. This side of the House will continue to invest in infrastructure and services that support local jobs because that is what a responsible government does.