




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bushfires

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.46 am): There are always new challenges. The heatwave currently sweeping across large parts of Queensland is sparking very high fire dangers. It is a challenge for our firefighters and Rural Fire Service volunteers, but they are up to the task. They are using every means at their disposal.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services stepped in as the lead agency to support the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in their firefighting efforts on 27 November last Friday on Fraser Island. As a result, there are now more than 75 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel on site actively engaged in firefighting. They are supported by 21 firefighting aircraft and more than 30 fire trucks.

The large air tanker, the LAT, has been deployed to the island and conducted two further drops yesterday to strengthen containment lines. In fact, I have been advised that almost one million litres of water and gel have been dropped on Fraser Island in the last few days alone. More drops are occurring across the affected area today and until the fire is put out. The LAT has regularly been used to contain this fire. I commend the firefighting efforts to date.

Fraser Island is one of about 30 bushfires burning across the state. The Fraser Island fire is the biggest and it is probably the most challenging environment as well. The fire has burnt more than 80,000 hectares on the island. I have had further talks this morning with fire authorities and have flagged that I will be speaking with the Inspector-General Emergency Management to ensure that all possible reviews can be done to make sure that we continue to learn from natural disasters and our response to it.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: Our Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is recognised as world-class and they are nation leading in so many ways. They will stop at nothing to protect people and property from natural disasters.