




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the examination of the Queensland Audit Office report No. 5 titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. At the outset let me say that in my region we were absolutely blessed and we did dodge a tragedy. I would like to thank all of my fire brigades—Cedar Creek Wolffdene, Ormeau, Wasp Creek and Rocky Point—for their efforts in other areas not just around Queensland but also down south in New South Wales and, indeed, Victoria.

It is interesting that this report only comes to hand now. I was only recently having a conversation with our local fire warden—in fact, I was arranging a fire permit for materials that I had gathered together on my property as a responsible landowner to ensure that it could be burned as soon as we were able to get into the right type of climate, and this rain has allowed that. I have been in that area for over 20 years and the fire warden has been there all his life—60-odd years.

He was telling me that they used to do the whole hazard reduction in the Ormeau Valley, a beautiful area, over a five-year period. They have not been able to do that for the last 15 years due to strict limits on time of day and not being allowed to burn through the night. Those sorts of issues and many others have stopped them from being able to do any of the work they would like to do. As such, our valley is a disaster waiting to happen. We need to properly manage these build-ups of fuel load in a systemic way. The QAO concluded that more work is needed to ensure that Queensland communities are not exposed to unnecessary higher levels of risk. That is not just for the Ormeau-Kingsholm area in which I live and for which I am responsible as the local member but right across the Darlington range from Cedar Creek to Ormeau. It is good news that the LNP have a 10-point plan to get Queensland ready for the next bushfire season.