




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.16 pm): Recently I was with the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services when we announced that the Palaszczuk government will be building a brand new, state-of-the-art fire and rescue station in Hervey Bay, with the first stage of the project underway to identify through consultation the appropriate location to place the station. This announcement is a great win for the electorate of Hervey Bay, particularly as the electorate grows substantially above predicted growth targets. The government acknowledges this growth and plans to ensure that the required public services and infrastructure are available to the community on time and when needed. Anyone who has been to Hervey Bay recently—and the cabinet saw that firsthand last year—is surprised at the rapid growth of the electorate and the city of Hervey Bay. To have a new fire station being planned and built at this time ensures the potential fire and risk requirements in Hervey Bay are acknowledged and minimised.

The risk profile of Hervey Bay city is changing, given that we now have many high-rise buildings. Current facilities need to be upgraded to ensure that we can adequately cover the risk that might come from fire and emergency events. That is a great decision for the people of Hervey Bay. I thank the minister for listening not only to me as the local member but also to local firefighters. I give a shout-out to those crews that helped with the recent Maryborough floods, the firefighters union and the local community who have advocated to replace the current fire station on Torquay Terrace as it was getting close to its use-by date.

I look forward to the process of getting the new fire station built. It will be state-of-the-art for its time. It will represent a huge commitment by the Palaszczuk government towards the electorate of Hervey Bay, ensuring that we keep safe from fires and emergency events well into the future. This is a government that puts community safety front and centre as a priority on all occasions, and I thank the minister again.

I also quickly touch on the resilience of my community. I was recently informed that Hervey Bay, as a part of the Fraser Coast local government area, has hit 99 per cent of people first-dose vaccinated, one of the largest vaccination rates in Queensland. I congratulate the people of Hervey Bay for taking up the call from the Chief Health Officer to get vaccinated and for making sure that we as a community are all adequately vaccinated, given the vulnerabilities of our demographic. Whilst vaccination may be at the back of people's minds a little now given the events of recent times, the virus is still prevalent. We must all be vigilant, so I ask people to make sure that when the time comes they get their second and booster vaccination on time and continue to get tested if they have symptoms so that we all can limit the harm of the virus within the community. I congratulate again the Hervey Bay community and the Fraser Coast for responding to this public health threat and ensuring by their actions that they keep each other safe.

Lastly, I wish a happy St Patrick's Day to all Irish cousins in Hervey Bay and across the state. I thank the member for Greenslopes and the Mental Health Select Committee for coming to Hervey Bay recently to listen to people with regard to mental health concerns. I am waiting for the report to be tabled. It will be excellent to read it.