




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Maryborough Fire and Emergency Services Complex

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.34 pm): 22 November in Maryborough was a red hot day. It was a great day. It was the opening of the Maryborough Fire and Emergency Services complex. It is so special because it is the first mass-produced timber fire complex in the state. It is absolutely brilliant. One of the good things about it—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: We hear the peanut gallery over there. Honestly, they have no idea about regional Queensland. That is why their numbers are so low in regional Queensland. For this fire complex the timber was grown locally, produced locally and put together by local tradespeople. It is a local fire complex. While I am on my feet I want to thank some people. The former treasurer and now Speaker of this place, the member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt, was there with me from the start. Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll when she was the QFES commissioner was absolutely supportive of this project. The current QFES minister in the House has been along for the ride from day one with me and with the QFES and Maryborough communities. I also want to thank the Treasurer.

One of the good things about this building is that we kept the old fire station that was built in 1951 which has the Maryborough bricks, the old banana bricks as we call them, and we have built the new fire station along with it, and it is absolutely tremendous. A lot of work went into it. Hutchies, the builders, were fantastic. Hyne Timber supplied all of the timber from the glulam factory in Maryborough that the Palaszczuk Labor government supported with grants to get it up and running. We had Katie Fowden from Hyne. We had the QBuild staff and the QFES staff. Everyone worked together. That is what happens when a government is committed to regional Queensland, committed to making sure that regional Queensland has the services it needs—not only the services but the buildings to go with those services. As a result, we have top firefighters in our region in a locally built timber fire station.

I also want to thank Adrian Massingham from the United Firefighters Union. He did a tremendous job working with QFES, QBuild, Hutchies and Hyne to ensure that we got the right outcome for the firefighters. I also want to thank Steve from the Together union. It was a collaborative effort—from the minister's office right through to everyone putting this fire station together. This is an example of what can be done when everyone works together. The result is a fire complex worth over \$14 million which is an iconic building in Maryborough city. The difference between us and the other side is that we build while they cut, they sack and they sell. Could members imagine that if they were in government we would not have our new fire complex? We only have this because of the Palaszczuk Labor government.