




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Cooper Electorate, Emergency Services

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.27 pm): A Labor government will always back our frontline workers. One thing that I know for sure is that you will never hear any member on this side of the House refer to regional frontline workers as 'duds'. I absolutely condemn the words spoken by the shadow health spokesperson this morning. A Labor government will also always back in our emergency services, and we have seen that promise delivered again this week. Yesterday the minister announced a major enhancement to Queensland's fire and emergency services, including a restructure, hundreds of additional staff and a \$400 million funding boost over four years. It was great to catch up again with local SES workers Shaz, Adrian and Davina, whom I first met at the Newmarket depot during the February flooding event. We spoke about the need to get our community storm-ready coming into another La Nina summer season. The response from them of course on this was simple: clean your gutters, tie down loose objects outdoors, monitor and respond to the weather predictions.

Today I really want to lend my support to our wonderful officers at the Queensland Police Service, in particular the great working relationship that our office has with The Gap and the city stations with officers including Sergeant Jose Sarmiento; Senior Constable Wendy Fletcher; Sergeant Shane Dan; Senior Constable Matt Forrester, who recently took up a role with the CPIU; station administrator Jo Webster, who has been at The Gap forever but not as long as Chris Pemberton, who has been the OIC of The Gap for 17 years, which is impressive; and Inspector Corey Allen. A lot of us would know of Corey. I have had a lot of interactions with him. He is amazing. For those who have the chance, check out his TED Talk on how he responds to youth offending in particular.

Since being elected I have worked closely with the QPS. We have held community safety forums, both in person and on zoom. We have organised numerous Coffee With a Cop events which have had great attendance from our community. People have responded well to the data behind what is happening in terms of crime trends and, importantly, the strategies that we know make a difference in target-hardening our community. The need for people to be safe and to feel safe is one of my greatest priorities. It is why I work closely with our QPS team and why we respond immediately to local crime trends. It is concentrated action like this that has enabled our suburbs of Ashgrove, The Gap and Paddington to be amongst the safest suburbs in this state. I put on record my thanks to the local crime prevention teams in The Gap and the city. It is only a Labor government that will back in, defend and invest in our police and emergency services. We have seen that commitment reiterated this week. I look forward to continuing to work with the guys at The Gap.