




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rural Fire Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.03 am): Notwithstanding Queensland being the state most impacted by natural disasters each year, the Palaszczuk government's commitment to good jobs and better services is enhancing our great lifestyle. We have to be prepared for natural disasters. Notwithstanding the significant rainfall and flooding that has affected most of our state in the first half of this year, the Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that the seasonal outlook still indicates there is a level of bushfire risk in Queensland. The bureau has advised that the probability of above-median rainfall across the state will likely result in the continuation of favourable conditions for new grass growth, which may mean a higher than normal grassfire season across parts of Central, Northern and Western Queensland this bushfire season.

The Palaszczuk government has yet again demonstrated our determination to ensure better services and a great lifestyle for the people of Queensland to ensure we are best placed for this bushfire season. We have committed to keeping communities safe in times of fire, flood and natural disasters, and we are yet again living up to this commitment with an over \$900 million investment in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Not only does this investment keep our emergency services workers safe, providing them up-to-date equipment and new and improved facilities; it also keeps our community safe.

Only a fortnight ago, during Rural Fire Service Week, many members of this House recognised the brave and demanding work of our Rural Fire Service volunteers. I was very pleased to launch Rural Fire Service Week with the member for Pine Rivers at the Dayboro Rural Fire Brigade. Queensland's Rural Fire Service volunteers were honoured during that week across the state, whether it was through awards ceremonies or through gestures such as lighting landmarks including the Story Bridge, the Kurilpa Bridge and Brisbane Square in yellow. This was just a small sign of our thanks and appreciation to the Rural Fire Service.

Not to be understated is our record Rural Fire Service budget of \$72.4 million this year. This includes a \$10 million budget boost for new and upgraded facilities and equipment, including a new facility in Maryborough and up to 200 deluge safety systems installed on appliances across the state. I acknowledge the member for Maryborough's advocacy on behalf of Rural Fire Service volunteers in the Fraser Coast area. That facility will be well received and will highlight the excellence of training and service delivery by Rural Fire Service volunteers. The budget also includes a substantial commitment for new Rural Fire Service vehicles and a new \$1 million Rural Fire Service facilities program. This is the first time a program of this nature for Rural Fire Service facilities has had a dedicated line item in the budget papers.

When disaster strikes, I do not doubt that the brave men and women of the Rural Fire Service would rather be with their loved ones. Instead, they are out fighting bushfires or sandbagging homes. That is because those yellow trucks and men and women in yellow signify calm amongst the chaos; they signify help; and they signify protection of community. That is why the Palaszczuk government will always back Queensland's emergency services volunteers and our frontline officers—every time.