



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Fire and Emergency Services**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.01 am): The government's significant investment for Queensland fire and emergency services, announced yesterday, has been met with overwhelming support from stakeholders. For instance, Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland President Ian Pike said, 'It's probably the best thing that's happened to Rural Fire for many years.' United Firefighters Union Queensland Secretary John Oliver said that 'the UFUQ ... welcome the review and ultimately the announcement of the restructure'. He recognised that 'the current QFES model has run its course' and said that the UFUQ 'are looking forward to a new Queensland fire department being established'. Fire and Rescue Senior Officers Union President Adrian Stafford said that the reform ensures fire and rescue services in Queensland are more effective and provide better preparedness to enhance service delivery to the community, while Eddie Cowie, the President of the SES Volunteer Association, said that the announcement strengthens SES resources throughout Queensland well into the future.

Our local councils have also been acknowledged. Local Government Association of Queensland CEO Alison Smith said the reform is 'much welcomed'. She said—

The LGAQ and its members now look forward to consultation beginning with the Reform Implementation Taskforce.

SES Volunteer Consultative Committee Chair Sharn Pogan said that this change 'gives the SES a renewed identity and wonderful improvements to equipment, resources and relationships'. Most importantly, Sharn said, like all of our stakeholders and many members of the community, these reforms will mean better services for the community. That is what this announcement is all about: delivering for our communities with better resources, more personnel and stronger alignment for emergency services.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the MPs who attended the briefing sessions yesterday to learn more about these important changes, including the member for Burdekin. I appreciate his acknowledgement and support at the briefing. Media coverage was also generally supportive. I think Channel 7 hit the nail on the head when reporter Ned Balme said it was a different name but the same dedicated service. The name may change, but the dedicated service of our frontline officers, staff and volunteers will always remain the same, now and into the future. More resources, more personnel, focused services, better alignment: it means good jobs and better services for Queensland. That is what our government delivers.