




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADJOURNMENT

LifeFlight Australia

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.30 pm): I recently had the great pleasure of attending the Darling Downs RACQ LifeFlight Rescue Annual Gala Ball held at the refurbished Empire Theatre in Toowoomba. It is always a highlight event in the region; however, this year the event was enormously successful, with the community raising more than \$450,000 on the night. It is a great credit to the local community and supporters of this vital aeromedical service. We were joined on the night by some very special guests, including RACQ LifeFlight Rescue past patients and their families.

LifeFlight Australia is a world leader in aeromedical care, saving lives and serving our regional communities. For more than forty years RACQ LifeFlight Rescue has been Queensland's leading community helicopter rescue service, delivering emergency response, critical medical care and hospital airlifts to seriously ill and injured people. Since the service attended their first patient airlift in 1979 to today, LifeFlight's purpose has always been the same: to save lives and support Queenslanders during their time of need. LifeFlight is able to provide its unique combination of search, rescue and aeromedical capabilities to carry out dozens of missions. It has directly assisted well over 100 people and indirectly assisted many more. For many of those airlifted, the LifeFlight missions made the difference between life and death.

After completing 693 critical missions in 2021, LifeFlight's Toowoomba base, the Clive Berghofer LifeFlight Centre, continues to be Queensland's busiest aeromedical chopper base. It is tasked through Queensland Health's statewide Clinical Coordination Centre and Retrieval Services Queensland. While COVID saw these numbers decrease slightly throughout 2022, the number of people helped by RACQ LifeFlight Rescue was 656. After spending 854 hours in the air, it has brought emergency care to the most remote corners of the region.

I would also like to acknowledge the Surat Gas Aeromedical Service, which also forms part of the Toowoomba aeromedical response delivered by LifeFlight. SGAS joined forces with LifeFlight in 2011 to contribute to the wellbeing of people living in the Darling Downs south-west region while also providing an around-the-clock aeromedical service for Surat Gas companies such as Shell, QGC, Santos, Arrow Energy and Origin. I would like to acknowledge LifeFlight's Darling Downs Regional Advisory Committee, whose dedication and innovation has proved to be an invaluable resource for LifeFlight.

Sincerest thanks goes to chair Gus Romero and committee members Julie Stewart, Ali Davenport, Barry O'Sullivan, Joe Stark, Wendy Roche, Trudi Bartlett, Mark Mahoney and David Russell for contributing their knowledge and expertise to represent and promote RACQ LifeFlight Rescue in the community.