




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Bushfire Preparedness

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.15 pm): Now is the time to plan and prepare. This is the direct warning that has been issued by the chief executive of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council in relation to the increased risk that Queensland is facing for the forthcoming bushfire season. Lower rainfall, increasing and drying fuel loads and warmer temperatures over coming months has significantly increased the risk of bushfires for our local communities, including in the electorate of Moggill.

On behalf of local residents of the electorate of Moggill, I have already formally written on a number of occasions to both the Queensland Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and the Brisbane City Council requesting that additional emergency management resources and support be made available as well as direct assistance be provided to local residents seeking to clear fuel loads on their properties. It is imperative that the state government and the Brisbane City Council work collaboratively together to ensure that every resource, including additional funding, be made available to support the important work of our local Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade, the Pullenvale Fire Station and the Moggill Group State Emergency Service. I again reiterate my previous advocacy and joint community support for the establishment of an additional dedicated Rural Fire Service brigade and provision of additional SES resources to support local residents of the suburbs of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Kholo, Anstead, Bellbowrie, Moggill and surrounds.

It is also imperative that local residents have full access to the Australian warning and early alert system that is fit for purpose and that delivers information and warnings, including bushfire alerts, in a timely and accurate manner. There must be open and clear lines of communication and responsibility between relevant state and local government authorities.

We all have a role to play to ensure that our families, home and communities are best prepared as possible for not only bushfires but other significant events. It is important that local residents are fully prepared and understand their level of risk. I strongly encourage all local residents of the electorate of Moggill—and indeed all Queenslanders—to take action now and to plan and prepare for the coming 2023-24 bushfire season. This includes removing dried vegetation and potential fuel loads, cleaning out home gutters and keeping the grass around properties well maintained. Residents in rural and semirural areas have also been asked to ensure that there is easy access to their property and that a sustained water supply is available if the need arises. Residents should also take the time to check their pumps and water sources.

I implore all residents to visit the Get Ready Queensland website, getready.qld.gov.au, for a wealth of important information so that residents can understand their risk, prepare a household emergency plan and pack their household emergency kit. Finally, as always in times of natural disaster and emergency, local residents are reminded to listen to the advice of our dedicated emergency services.