



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Cooper Electorate, Bushfire Preparedness

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.07 pm): On Monday I joined with the Premier and Deputy Premier to launch Get Ready Queensland Week at Suncorp Stadium. It was a fantastic event. We had members of SES, QFES, police, ABC Radio and RSPCA—they are all our partners in disaster management and recovery—and of course the ambassador of Get Ready Queensland, Johnathan Thurston, who has a really busy time ahead of him spreading this important message in Queensland.

We heard from Katie from the Bureau of Meteorology that this summer will be hotter than usual. It is an El Niño season, and we are likely to experience hotter-than-average temperatures. People in my electorate experienced flooding in the 2022 event and some are still grappling with the impacts of that. That period showed me that we do have incredible resilience as Queenslanders in how we respond and recover from natural disasters as well as how much better we can respond if we are prepared. I have spoken to a number of residents who are obviously really nervous about what will be a hot summer and understandably want to know how we can locally reduce our shared bushfire risk.

I can inform locals that I have regular discussions with local QFES around this. I can inform them that all of the bushfire hazard reduction burns that fall within the responsibility of QFES and Queensland Parks and Wildlife for our electorate have occurred or are on track to occur. I can further advise that the bushfire reduction burns throughout Mount Coot-tha, which are the responsibility of Brisbane City Council, have occurred. Those reduction burns that fall within the responsibility of the ADF at Gallipoli Barracks have also occurred. It is because of efforts like this that we have not had a bushfire in our region for 15 years, but of course we cannot be complacent. As residents, we all have a responsibility to manage our shared risk, and part of that is in the prevention space. I am calling on all of our local members to conduct a property audit, clear excess vegetation and create that buffer zone around their home, remove combustibles, check access points for QFES, check water supply, stock up on rakes and hoses, and think about how QFES would get onto their property.

The second element is preparation. None of us like to think about bushfires occurring, but if one does happen in our area we need to think about how we would evacuate from that. QFES has some great resources online. If members in my area cannot download those, they can contact my office and we can assist with that. QFES have packs that will take people through the steps they need to think about if they do have to evacuate—nominating a friend or family member in an area outside our local area they might get to early; what they might pack, including medications and valuables; and who they might pack, taking family pets along with them. Doing that planning coming into bushfire season is a real essential for all of us to manage that shared risk. Like I said, there are some great resources online through QFES. I encourage all of my locals to look them up and familiarise themselves with them and use them. Together, we can reduce our shared risk coming into bushfire season.