




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Bushfires

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.06 pm): Since Friday last week, a very large bushfire has been burning in Tallebudgera Valley near Ryans Road. Some 278 hectares has been burnt already and fire crews have been engaged every day alongside our dedicated rural fire brigades. Volunteers and firefighters from the Tallebudgera Valley, the Currumbin Valley, Mudgeeraba and Bonogin have all been working alongside the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services around the clock to ensure that Currumbin residents are protected from that fire—their property, their animals and their homes.

Yesterday I visited the heroes at Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, delivered some supplies on behalf of our community and attended the community meeting. I am very pleased to report that after battling the blaze every day, things have finally improved. The fire is now under control. I have just been informed that the rain has come. The situation will continue to be monitored over the next 24 hours, but the incident control centre can now be dismantled.

On behalf of our community, I personally thank all of the incident controllers, including Tallebudgera Valley officers Ben Naday, first officer; Joshua Hughes, second officer; John Irwin, third officer; Jackson Baker, seventh officer; Michael Laird, eighth officer; Mudgeeraba first officer Brad Huack; and area director south coast, Cory Bock. Glen Richards assisted extensively in the incident management team and his help was much appreciated. I thank all the brigades from the Gold Coast rural firefighting group, including Mudgeeraba, Currumbin Valley and Bonogin Valley, but, most of all, led by the Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade. I thank the dedicated volunteer support members who came in every day to help feed the crews. I thank the staff from the south coast area office. There were some small businesses that stepped in to help. PowerClear tree lopping service and Campbell Brook allowed the community to borrow vital equipment necessary to clear tracks and helped with the bulldozer line. One of the fire trucks got a flat tyre while it was fighting the fire and Bridgestone Currumbin fixed that tyre for free.

Certainly, and not least, I want to thank all of the members of our community, including the wonderful Talley Valley Farmers, who banded together to check on the neighbours to ensure their properties were secure and to deliver food and supplies to the crews that were out there fighting the fires every day. The community response truly was overwhelming and I feel so grateful and privileged to be representing such a fantastic community.

I also want to acknowledge that with the activity in Tallebudgera Valley now coming to an end our fearless rural firefighters are now heading out to the devastating fires ripping through Tara. I am advised that that terrible fire has already destroyed 11 hectares of bushland and, tragically, one life has been lost. I stand with our rural firefighters and I thank them sincerely for their efforts. Our hearts go out to the affected communities and we stand in solidarity with all Queenslanders affected by bushfires.