



Speech By


Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements; Bushfire Preparedness; Youth Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): I take this opportunity to table the Queensland government's fourth implementation progress report for the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. The report shows the considerable progress that Queensland has made in delivering the royal commission's recommendations. Overall, of those relevant to Queensland, 29 recommendations are now considered delivered. This includes the delivery of key recommendations in relation to climate projections, vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction, communicating risk information to households, national exercising and the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. Work continues with the Commonwealth and other state and territory jurisdictions on the other relevant recommendations.

Tabled paper: Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements—Queensland Government's Fourth Implementation progress report—July 2023 [1167](#).

As the Premier spoke about earlier, Queensland faces a challenging bushfire season. I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services that, as with other jurisdictions, it is looking to be a potentially significant and serious bushfire season ahead. Reduced seasonal rainfall, low root-zone soil moisture levels and elevated evaporation rates, across areas including the inland parts of Capricornia, Wide Bay-Burnett and the south-east coastal forecast areas and in widespread parts of the Southern Downs and the Granite Belt, have combined to produce above-average fire potential for those areas moving into the spring fire season. In fact, the outlook indicates an increased risk of fire from Tweed Heads all the way to Innisfail and as far west as the Channel Country. I strongly urge communities in those regions to continue their preparations for bushfire and to monitor local conditions. In addition, all households should have a bushfire plan.

The government will continue to support the community by backing the front line. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is set to invest more than \$85 million into a new three-year 285 rural fire service vehicle building program. This increases the total current investment to over \$120 million and means the pipeline of new and replacement Rural Fire Service vehicles is now over 400. Today, with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, I announced that the additional investment will include funding for at least 80 light-attack, 140 medium-attack and 30 heavy-attack firefighting vehicles, plus 18 bulk water tankers. We want to make sure that our people on the front line of community safety have the best and safest vehicles and equipment possible.

Today is the 2023 national Crime Stoppers Day. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the many people who volunteer their time for Crime Stoppers and work in partnership with community, government and other community organisations to support community safety. In addition, later today I

will be joining the Police Commissioner and the Youth Crime Taskforce commander to launch an important initiative for community safety. We will be announcing the formal establishment of a new rapid response task force.

The new rapid response unit establishes, for the first time in Australia, a co-responder flying squad that will be able to be deployed to anywhere in Queensland. It will consist of experienced detectives from the Queensland Police Service and experienced Youth Justice staff. These teams will be able to be deployed rapidly to hotspots anywhere in the state. This will deliver the capacity not only to respond to crime but also, through Youth Justice, to provide early additional intervention and support services to support breaking the cycle of criminal offending. This is another example of pulling all the levers and doing everything we can to support community safety for Queenslanders.