




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rural Fire Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.13 am): Today we welcome Rural Fire Service volunteers to the House to celebrate Yellow Ribbon Day. It was great for a number of us to join those volunteers and our friends from the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland out the front of parliament this morning to say hello and to see one of the latest Rural Fire Service appliances on display.

The busy start to the bushfire season has been an great reminder of the importance of what our rural fire volunteers do to keep us safe. Across Queensland we currently have multiple bushfires, particularly in the south-west and central regions. Many of these fires are now currently contained because of the efforts of these outstanding Queenslanders—members of the Rural Fire Service. These fires are likely to continue to require active management for some days to come, with significant resources and personnel committed from many parts of Queensland.

In particular, it is worth highlighting that the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, aerial firefighting fleet has been particularly busy, and this year that busyness is starting very early. The large air tanker, for instance, has already performed over a dozen drops and the Black Hawk helicopter—new to the fleet—has performed over 260 water-bombing drops already. This is an important reminder that we are now in bushfire season and that the community needs to be prepared by following the information on the website of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

It is important to stay on the leading edge with the latest technology and equipment and to find new ways to keep both frontline volunteers and the community safe. That is why this morning I am very proud to announce a new \$1 million innovation fund to allow us to work with Rural Fire Service volunteers and partners on trialling new solutions and technologies and testing them for operational effectiveness. This may be a new appliance or the latest kind of safety in firefighting equipment. This is all about keeping Rural Fire Service volunteers on the front line safe, because they keep us and our community safe.