



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Exercise Talisman Sabre, Deaths; Slade, Ms K

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.15 pm): In the months that have passed since we last gathered, our service personnel across Queensland have faced some tragedy. The conduct of the biennial Talisman Sabre, the premiere combined joint exercise in Australia, was marred by the death of four Army personnel in a tragic air crash. This highlights the risk that is faced by our personnel even on home soil. 'Train hard, fight easy,' is what they say in the Army. Investigators will sift through the wreckage to find the cause of this incident, but my thoughts are with the families, the unit members and the wider defence family.

The last Talisman Sabre I did was in 2015, and although it has been many years since I was deployed to the happiest training area in the world, Shoalwater Bay, I cannot state enough how much time in the field in preparation for deployment is and can be just as risky as actual deployments.

Closer to home, our police community is hurting. The loss of a serving officer whilst on duty has far-reaching impacts for the Logan Police District. It puts the mental health and wellbeing of our officers under the spotlight for it is a difficult job and not one that people take lightly. Senior Constable Kym Slade had spent 15 years in the job, just having reached the 15-year mark. It was 15 years of dedicated service to the people of Logan.

I first met Kym in 2007 when she commenced at the Queensland Police Academy at Oxley. Walking through those gates, it was clear that getting to the academy was a career goal realised. She was a single mum who had worked her tail off to get there, and she was clearly nervous about how she would fare academically, but the effort she put in over those six months that I was instructor was clear. She would achieve her goal and she would graduate. I commend the service that she provided across a number of stations in Logan—Crestmead station, Beenleigh station, Beenleigh comms, Beenleigh watch house, and finally Loganholme police station. I think what it does is it puts a very clear focus for those of us who sit in here and who expect service of our uniformed personnel, whether it be blue or green. We ask them to make a great sacrifice. For many of them, they will miss many opportunities and they will miss time with their families in order to serve the people of Queensland in an extremely dangerous environment. It is incumbent upon us to make sure that they are looked after both whilst in service and when they retire.