




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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ADJOURNMENT

Volunteer Marine Rescue, Jacobs Well; Get Ready Queensland Week

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.06 pm): VMR Jacobs Well's Big Splash event was on 16 September—and what a great event it was celebrating the commissioning of VMR's new rescue vessel, Jacobs Well Rescue I, and 45 years of rescue service to the local community. At VMR Jacobs Well there are 95 volunteers currently working as boat skippers, crew, radio operators and in administration. In the last 12 months they have assisted over 1,000 people and spent almost 6,500 hours doing that, together with training and patrols. They used over 39,000 litres of fuel over that time, costing something like \$80,000. Together with ongoing maintenance, as one can imagine, it is a costly exercise.

That brings me to Get Ready Queensland Week which commenced yesterday and goes through until Sunday, 15 October. Queensland experiences more natural disasters than any other state or territory. Queensland has had more than 100 natural disasters since 2011. We all need to be ready to face bushfires and storms in particular. I am asking all of my constituents, 'Do you have a plan to stay safe?' There are a few simple things that can be done to be ready for extreme weather: clean up, for a start, by checking around the house and yard; subscribe to the Bureau of Meteorology and the Gold Coast City Council for extreme weather notifications; connect with neighbours—if you do not know them, get to know them; get your insurance cover up to date and make sure your home and contents insurance is adequate with the cost of building skyrocketing in recent years; be sure to Google the Get Ready Queensland website for more information; grab a few extra items from the supermarket to make an emergency kit such as long-life food, drinking water and other items that you may need; and be sure you have batteries, a torch and a radio in case the power and mobile services go out.

From our local northern Gold Coast perspective, the risks are real. We have the Darlington Range to our west which is a heavily treed area and has been prone to bushfires in past years, particularly severe bushfires in around 2000 and 2010. My concern is the low number of hazard reduction burns that are being done on the Gold Coast in general and the fire danger rating signs that have been removed. Go online and sign the petition. Those fire danger rating signs were a visual reminder to everybody to be very careful. From a volunteer perspective we are well prepared. We have four rural fire brigades—Rocky Point, Ormeau, Wasp Creek and Cedar Creek Wolffdene. We also have state emergency services at Pimpama and, of course, Volunteer Marine Rescue down at the Well that works with emergency services. They have first responder paramedics as volunteers at Volunteer Marine Rescue Jacobs Well.