




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Kingaroy Fire and Rescue Station; Small Schools Cluster Cross Country

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.04 pm): I rise to talk about the Kingaroy Fire and Rescue Station. As our community grows so does our need to have a brand new fire station in Kingaroy. This is something that our hardworking local firies and I have been advocating for for years and years. The current station was built in 1953. It did have an extension in 1990. Our current fire station has served us well. For about a decade it has been outdated and is struggling to meet the demands of the growing staff. It is no longer fit for purpose and certainly will not have the capacity to facilitate the doubling of staff anticipated for the upcoming 24/7 permanent staffing arrangements.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services. I am pleased the minister is in the chamber. She knows that I have met with all those local firies. I encourage people, particularly in regional Queensland, to become auxiliary firefighters as well as rural firies. Those locals are often the first to attend the horrific road crashes caused by a lack of road maintenance in Queensland. There is something like a \$6 billion backlog in road maintenance. Our rural and regional roads are death traps. It is our hardworking firefighters who are often the first ones to attend those crashes.

I will continue working with local firefighters to make sure they get the facilities that they deserve. In Kingaroy right now there is just one room that is their 'everything' room. Kingaroy also shares the testing room with all the local stations and it is not fit for purpose. Their lockers are not fit for purpose. They sit in with the fire truck. I implore the minister to listen to the Kingaroy firies. A new station will not only enhance the effectiveness of the staff response capabilities but also ensure the safety of our firefighters who protect us all.

Tomorrow, straight from parliament, I will go to Tingoora State School and the Kingaroy Small Schools Cluster cross country. I will certainly not be running, but I cannot wait to see everyone on the finishing line. Those competing will be Tingoora State School, Durong State School, Wooroolin State School, Crawford State School, Coolabunia State School and Kumbia State School. I thank Dr Tanya Taylor, the principal, for inviting me. Guluguba State School will not be there. I say to all those small-school kids—they know I went to a small school; I love small schools: if you do go to a small school you can achieve anything you want to achieve.