




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Firefighters

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.03 pm): I am proud to be part of the Miles government—a government that continues to invest in our front line and provide the infrastructure and the equipment that they need. Right now, we on this side of the House are proud to support our firefighters. We have seen more than 2½ thousand fire and rescue staff on the front line each and every day. We are supporting them to do what they do day in and day out to keep Queenslanders safe. We are also delivering 500 additional firefighters over six years from 2020-21. We on this side of the House want to see more firefighters, not fewer, and that is because community safety comes first, not last. I have been joined at local fire stations by members on this side of the House—like the members for Bundaberg, Bancroft and Maryborough—and they ask me what they can do to get even more firefighters in our community. The Miles government wants more firefighters. We do not want fewer because community safety comes first. It does not come last.

I visited the Cairns Fire Station. These proud firies have been out protecting their community right through Tropical Cyclone Jasper. Some of them have also travelled further afield to support communities. Members can imagine my surprise when I visited the fire station in Cairns following a visit to the Cairns fire station by the member for Burdekin. In terms of those frontline workers who had Christmas cancelled to protect their community on account of Cyclone Jasper—the very workers who put their lives on the line to make us safe—what did the member for Burdekin ask them? Does he ask what he can do to help? No, he does not. Instead of asking what he can do to help, I am told that the member for Burdekin put community safety last when he asked the officer in charge, 'What will you do with surplus firefighters?' Who has ever heard of such a thing as surplus firefighters?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms BOYD: I will tell you who: the LNP has. That is who. There are too many firefighters for the LNP, too many police for the LNP, too many nurses for the LNP—and this is just an insight into some of the plans of those opposite.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BOYD: We have made the tough decisions on this side of the House so we can build up our fire stations so we can employ more firies. We know that the LNP has a plan to cut. The member for Burdekin is out there right now making a list around who he can cut. It is out of the bag. He is Last by name, last by nature.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I am just going to get some advice. Member for Burdekin, you used some unparliamentary language while interjecting. I would ask that you withdraw.

Mr LAST: I withdraw.