




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.29 am): Keeping Queenslanders safe is a priority for the Miles government, and that includes providing the frontline services our cities, towns, and regional and rural communities need. Investing in fire infrastructure and frontline staff and volunteers is absolutely essential.

Last week I was pleased to join the member for Keppel at The Caves Rural Fire Service to hand over keys to a \$455,000 Hino 500 tanker as part of the Rural Fire Service Fleet Replacement Scheme. It was terrific to meet volunteers such as First Officer Owen Buckle and his mum, Jenny, who has faithfully served almost 20 years in the Rural Fire Service. The Buckles also have three generations serving at The Caves.

I was so pleased to inspect the new Alton Downs rural fire shed. The Queensland government has contributed more than \$190,000 towards the new shed which will help the local brigade under the leadership of First Officer Owen Buckle to protect their community. It is a fantastic new home for the brigade. Upgrading facilities for rural services like this is part of the \$8.2 million allocated in the budget to provide new and upgraded facilities right across Queensland.

In addition to the infrastructure upgrades, the Miles government is also boosting fleet delivery across QFES with \$18.7 million for new fire rescue service trucks and over \$23 million for new Rural Fire Service trucks and support vehicles. In total, we are delivering 265 new vehicles right across Queensland, with more than half of that fleet boosting our Rural Fire Service and keeping our rural communities safe.

This represents a 40 per cent uplift to the Rural Fire Service over the last 12 months. On top of this, there is a \$38.2 million allocation for capital works within the Fire and Rescue Service, with \$20 million dedicated to constructing new state-of-the-art fire and rescue stations such as in Caloundra South, Moreton Bay Central, Greater Springfield and Mount Cotton Road.

I recently went to Bancroft with the member for Bancroft to open the Moreton Bay Central fire station. Recently I visited the Mount Cotton station with the member for Springwood and the member for Macalister that is nearing completion. That construction is well underway and I cannot wait to see the benefit that that will provide for the local community. I look forward to shortly joining the member for Caloundra when we visit the Caloundra Fire and Rescue Station, which is due to be completed in late 2024. The Miles government will always invest in our front line through new facilities, fleet delivery and safety systems for firefighters to ensure the safety of all of our Queensland communities.