



Speech By  
**Hon. Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### Correction of Record; Pine Rivers Small Business Awards

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 pm): I would like to make a clarification regarding a private member's statement I delivered during the last sitting. On 21 March, I stated that I had been told that the member for Burdekin had asked about surplus firefighters during his visit to the Cairns Fire and Rescue Station. I table an email my office received from QFES staff following that visit.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 19 February 2024, from Chief Superintendent, Fire and Rescue Service, Far Northern Region, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, regarding a visit from the member for Burdekin, Mr Dale Last MP [607](#).

The email clearly states that the member asked the chief superintendent during the visit, 'What are you going to do with the surplus staff with the new region?' This information was further clarified during a meeting with the chief superintendent and senior QFES staff. I wish to clarify that I should have said in my original statement that the member had asked the chief superintendent about surplus staff during his visit to the Cairns Fire and Rescue Station. Firefighters are, of course, the largest contingent of the paid QFES workforce. I wish to further clarify that my statements regarding the member for Burdekin drawing up a list of staff to sack is my opinion based on that information, and I still hold that opinion. However, given I expressed my opinion regarding LNP cuts as a fact, I unconditionally withdraw.

I would like to update the House about the fantastic Pine Rivers Small Business Awards which are running again in 2024. Nominations are presently open. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise the amazing contributions that our small businesses make. Nominations are open for only a couple more days until the 20th. I am encouraging my community to nominate their favourite small business in the categories of: trades and services; wellbeing, beauty and hairdressing; cafes, restaurants and bars; retail and sales; social enterprises; agricultural; and Best Small Business Newcomer. From here, we will have a finals process for real heavy-hitting voting. We know it is hotly contested between 21 April and 12 May. Then on 28 May, we will be welcoming our fantastic small business minister, Lance McCallum, into the electorate to partake in a presentation where we will give awards to the winners in each of those categories across the Pine Rivers community.

We know our small businesses make a tremendous contribution right across the Pine Rivers electorate, be it a social, economic or cultural contribution. This is an awards process that I kicked off over COVID because it acknowledges that small businesses throughout our community were doing it particularly tough. Last year, we received many thousands of votes. Already we have received hundreds of nominations for the awards. It will be a fantastic way to celebrate our community.