



Speech By  
**David Lee**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay**

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.23 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, did you know that Queensland has the highest number of people with boat licences and registered vessels in Australia? In September 2024 Queensland had over one million boat licences. The state also has more than 277,000 registered watercraft, which is more than any other state in Australia. It should come as no surprise that this puts considerable demand on our hardworking and professional volunteer marine rescue services.

Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay has come a long way since it was established in 1972. That is 52 years of dedicated and selfless service, that is 52 years of saving lives at sea and that is 52 years in supporting our boating community and keeping our waterways safe and secure. Since 1972 our Hervey Bay marine rescue volunteers have served our boating community. It started with the Air Sea Rescue where volunteer members used their own boats, then Volunteer Marine Rescue and more recently Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay. Hervey Bay transitioned to Marine Rescue Queensland on 3 December 2024. MRQ is now a state funded volunteer marine rescue service which operates as part of the Queensland Police Service.

MRQ Hervey Bay has retained its own local identity and governance structure and has a distinct blue and yellow uniform. MRQ Hervey Bay is strategically well positioned having made substantial contributions in strategic planning, governance, standard operating procedures and vessel management protocols. Their mission statement is SOLAS: saving of lives at sea. I commend our 80 active and dedicated MRQ Hervey Bay volunteers for their service under the leadership of the unit commander, John Gibson, and the deputy unit commander, Kevin Lategan, including the skippers, crews, radio operators and their families.

Our marine rescue volunteers are on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week and dedicate about 300 volunteer hours per week to our Hervey Bay community. There are about 340 activations per year ranging from medivacs tasked by Queensland Ambulance Service to search and rescue missions. Volunteer members also assist with the safety backup for local boating competitions and vessel management during local events. MRQ operates from its base at Urangan boat harbour with an operational area inside K'gari Fraser Island from Stewart Island in the Great Sandy Strait to north of the Sandy Cape.

My electorate of Hervey Bay commends our hardworking volunteers and their families for their service in the saving of lives at sea.