




Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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ADJOURNMENT

Thank a First Responder Day

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.17 pm): Today we pause to say two simple but powerful words: thank you. Today is Thank a First Responder Day. As somebody who proudly served the Queensland community for 28 years in the Queensland Police Service in Townsville and in my electorate of Mundingburra, I know the weight of the uniform. I know the long shifts, the night shifts, the short changeovers, the missed meals and the missed birthdays, school functions and Christmases, and I know the quiet moments between the chaos where you ready yourself for whatever may come next. First responders—our police officers, ambulance officers, firefighters and emergency crews—do not just run towards danger: they run towards people—people in pain, in crisis and in fear—and they do it without hesitation every single day.

I have worked those streets at 2 am. I have comforted victims, knocked on doors with hard news and stood shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues in the face of tragedy. Through it all, I have seen the unbreakable spirit that defines the people who are our first responders, but here is what many do not see—the quiet resilience, the mental toll and the burden they carry home. Yet still they show up—for us, for our families, for complete strangers. Now, as the member for Mundingburra, I carry those lessons into parliament. I will never stop advocating for the men and women who serve on the front line because when we back our first responders we strengthen the very fabric of our communities.

Thank you for the work that you do day in and day out to keep our communities safe. Today you have come to work, kitted up, and have just gone about doing your job like you do each and every day, but please know that you are appreciated and we thank you. Today, whether it was a handshake, a kind word or a heartfelt thank you, we reminded our first responders that they are seen, they are valued and they are never alone. To all our heroes in uniform, we thank you. Your courage keeps us safe, your sacrifice does not go unnoticed and your service will never be forgotten. Thank you.