



Speech By
Nigel Hutton

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Keppel Electorate, SES Volunteers

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.17 pm): Last month the communities of Central Queensland heard the vast roar of the mighty Fitzroy and faced flooding. This was an occasion that brought our communities together and, just as importantly, those angels in orange—those people who come together each and every week to train to serve their communities in emergencies—our amazing State Emergency Service personnel, came to the fore. They served our communities in the lead-up to the flood. They served our communities during the flood. They have been an intrinsic part of the recovery post flood.

Our local crews were on the ground working each and every day, and our crews were bolstered by Queenslanders who volunteered their time in Central Queensland's time of need. There were volunteers from across the state from Theodore, Townsville, Maryborough and the Redlands. What was most impressive was that those volunteers had experienced disaster or the threat of disaster in their own communities in the weeks leading up to this time. We were very lucky in Central Queensland that the flooding was not as high as first predicted by BoM, yet in our time of need not only did we have our local volunteers from the SES; we also had our friends from across the state come and help. That is incredibly important.

It was wonderful to have the Premier come and talk to people on the ground. When he spoke to them he conveyed the thanks of our state but just as importantly gave the message that the Crisafulli government has their back. That was followed up with a visit from the Minister for Disaster Recovery, who spoke to our communities about disaster management—how we know they have been under-resourced and there is confusion about whether they belong with local government or state government and that the Crisafulli government was stepping up. I thank the Minister for Disaster Recovery for stepping up in that way.

Each and every year, thousands of Queenslanders give their time in the SES. They tarp roofs, they support small businesses and they serve our communities. Whether you are a serving member of the SES or one of the thousands of Queenslanders who at some stage during their life has given their time to the SES, I offer my thanks for the service you give, knowing that it makes such a difference in our communities.

On Australia Day I had the marvellous opportunity to acknowledge Chrissy. Chrissy has given a lifetime of service to Yeppoon SES. On that day she did not ask for our thanks. She said, 'I do it because I love it and because of the amazing people I volunteer with.' That is true Queensland spirit.