



Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; JUSTICE,
INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.33 pm): I rise tonight to make a contribution in relation to the emergency services deliberations of the committee through the estimates process. We had extraordinary scenes where it became very apparent very quickly that the minister responsible, the Minister for Emergency Services, simply was not doing work within his own portfolio. So much for a fresh start. There were numerous instances through the estimates process where the minister was, in fact, lost and confused around his responsibilities, his undertakings and his actions. It was highlighted in a couple of different sections, specifically when we talked about the EVA forum. It was really clear that the minister had no idea what the EVA forum even was, and after a considerable line of questioning we found out that he was briefed on it upon becoming the minister but had not in fact held any meetings at all. He determined that it would meet annually which, in effect, means that this really important forum for emergency volunteers has not convened whatsoever.

The acting commissioner really belled the cat when he said in response to the question, 'The minister has indicated it has only been meeting once a year.' Then when I asked, 'Is it correct to say that EVAF prior to August 2024 met quarterly?', the acting commissioner said that EVAF on occasion had met quarterly. I call on the minister to table the meeting dates of EVAF because it absolutely meets quarterly. The commissioner belled the cat in that response.

It became even clearer that the acting commissioner could not tell us who the chair of EVAF even was. Over two minutes passed from the initial asking of that question and no-one had handed them a post-it note with the name on it at all. It was just incomprehensible. It was like we were watching some kind of skit. Then when the acting commissioner read out the name on the post-it note, he needed several attempts to pronounce it correctly and got it wrong.

We saw extraordinary scenes when it came to consideration for the really important work and the important involvement of the emergency services volunteers through our community. It is incomprehensible that after so many natural disasters this forum has not indeed been convened a single time under this emergency services minister. In fact, he even tried to—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Pine Rivers, I have to ask you to take your seat. The time for debate on the report has expired.