




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak to the report into the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland and to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution made by volunteers across our great state. The inquiry heard from over 500 submitters and dozens of witnesses across Queensland. What we heard was inspiring and also sobering. The report confirms that volunteering contributes an estimated \$117 billion in social and economic benefit annually to Queensland, yet participation has declined significantly in recent years, with about 200,000 fewer volunteers compared to pre-COVID levels. Those who remain are carrying more weight, more compliance and more cost. Let's be clear: volunteers are the very fabric of our community, and I acknowledge the critical contribution of volunteers across Queensland.

Stakeholders told us powerful stories. A 10-year-old, Evie Wright, spoke of the joy of helping others and how volunteering builds confidence and purpose. Emergency service volunteers described long onboarding delays, repetitive training processes and red tape that discourages new recruits. These are not abstract policy concerns; they are real frustrations felt by real people giving their time freely.

This inquiry was an opportunity to build on the former Labor government's Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032. Instead, the Crisafulli government duplicated large amounts of work already undertaken, asking many of the same organisations many of the same questions at the cost of taxpayers and time-poor volunteers. That is why, as a committee, we created a subcommittee to enable less of the committee to travel so that it would keep the cost down for taxpayers. That is something that the member for Townsville should take note.

The Crisafulli LNP government's response to the inquiry is, quite frankly, underwhelming. Based on further investigation, further consultation, further planning processes, advisory panels and working groups, another cycle of planning will not reduce pressure now on volunteers facing burnout, declining participation rates, rising costs and administration burden. Regrettably, there are concerns that volunteer burnout, red tape and insurance costs were not addressed.