



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON


Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE; REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 12 February (see p. 252), on motion of Mr Lister—

That the House take note of the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee Report No. 4, 58th Parliament—*Inquiry into Volunteering in Queensland*, tabled on 18 September 2025.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.00 pm), continuing: 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 the pressure now on volunteers facing burnout, declining participation rates, rising costs and administrative burdens. Regrettably, there are concerns that volunteer burnout, red tape and insurance costs are not being addressed. There is a growing compliance burden placed on small volunteer-run organisations, effectively requiring unpaid committee members to operate at near professional governance standards. We are expecting unpaid mums, dads and the elderly to meet governance standards that resemble those of small corporations. That is not sustainable.

In my electorate of Lytton I see this every single week. At St Pete's Pantry volunteers pack hundreds of food hampers for families doing it tough. At Wynnum Community Place volunteers support vulnerable residents and connect people to services. Local sporting clubs like Bayside United, the Wynnum Bugs, Little Athletics, Scouts and the Wolves all run on volunteer coaches, treasurers and canteen managers. The Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly raises funds quietly and consistently for community projects. Local environment volunteers restore our foreshore, protect Moreton Bay and plant trees to preserve our coastline for the next generation. None of these are asking for applause. They are asking for practical support and they are telling us clearly that volunteers are the lifeblood of our community. But goodwill alone will not keep the lights on.

The inquiry heard that red tape, rising insurance premiums and growing compliance demands are pushing many long-serving volunteers to breaking point. This government's response simply does not go far enough to ease these pressures. Insurance costs in particular are biting hard. Small community organisations are reporting premium increases that threaten their viability. Others are fearful of personal liability. We heard volunteers say that they are effectively doing multiple jobs because no-one else can stand up. This must not be ignored. Burnout is real.

The committee made key recommendations including adopting a whole-of-government approach to volunteering, establishing a ministerial advisory panel, reviewing insurance premiums and streamlining onboarding practices. These are sensible and practical reforms. I welcome the acknowledgement within the report that volunteering is under threat, but acknowledgment alone is not enough. In the bayside and across Queensland, our volunteers deserve nothing less. I commend the work of the committee and urge the government to act with urgency and genuine partnership with the sector, because when we support volunteers we strengthen Queensland.