




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Albert Electorate, Rural Fire Brigade

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise tonight to pay homage to those who give up their time to protect our community, those who ask for so little, but give so much. They are our Rural Fire Brigade volunteers.

As I have mentioned many times in this House, the Albert electorate straddles the Northern Darlington Range of the northern Gold Coast and the southern area of Logan City. My electorate is blessed with the best Mother Nature offers. However, this natural beauty can sometimes place us in the way of potential dangers such as bushfires. It is with that in mind that I ask all residents to do all they can to protect their own homes. There are simple tasks like mowing lawns regularly, removing excess ground fuels and combustible materials, trimming trees near homes, clearing and checking gutters and, most importantly—and this is something that is overlooked on many occasions—making sure that driveways are clear so that if there is a bushfire in the area there is good access for Rural Fire Service vehicles. These vehicles are very large. If there is combustible material around these driveways, it is a potential deathtrap for our Rural Fire Service volunteers.

These volunteers are the guys down at the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, people like Tony Subiritizky, who is always the first to volunteer; Wayne Teece, who keeps the trucks operational; Paul Graham, who is the station's first officer; and Andy Boyd, a former first officer for many years. There are also the members of the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade, who are also dedicated helpers for their local area. They always attend local fairs, informing my constituents of best practices to minimise the fire threat in their areas.

A government member: Is that Lewis?

Mr BOOTHMAN: People such as Lewis Truloff and First Officer Bevan Love, Wayne Partridge and Brett Bain to name just a few. These individuals give up their time and give demonstrations at local fairs and local schools, showing how quickly fire can burn uphill.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: As was demonstrated in Burleigh last night. Fire going up a hill burns so much faster and is far more unpredictable. We need to take extreme care, especially in the northern Gold Coast area.

Lastly, I would just like to mention the Wolffdene Rural Fire Brigade and people such as Col Veivers, who has been instrumental in getting a cadet program at his local rural fire brigade, teaching these young kids about teamwork, about becoming potential volunteers in the future. I thank our Rural Fire Service for all the hard work that they do for our local communities.