



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**


**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Trauma

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.12 pm): Many tears are shed as an MP on multiple fronts in not being able to alleviate the deep grief and trauma impacting on our communities from both natural disasters and human perpetrators. I refer firstly to the catastrophic impacts of the recent Queensland fires and floods. There are no words to convey my heartfelt sorrow at what these communities and farmers have gone through and are going through. The drought, fire and floods I experienced when I lived in remote areas does not compare to the enormity of what has been experienced over these past weeks. The cost emotionally and financially is not just to those directly impacted; it is to all Queenslanders. We thank those who are there on the front line to assist them.

Secondly, I mention the horrific impacts of irresponsible and selfish humans. The outpouring of grief and anger in our communities when a loved one's life is taken away through the irresponsible or deliberate actions of another is unacceptably now too common. Repeat offenders who kill and maim through drink, drugs, dangerous driving and acts of violence are showing contempt for and disrespect to fellow Queenslanders and our society, through the destruction they deliver not only to their victims but also to all those who know, love and depend on them as well as to the collective Queensland state that continues to spend so much compassion, time and taxpayer dollars to prevent this minority harming others.

Every single MP sitting in this chamber feels this pain and frustration, and I acknowledge and appreciate the efforts previously and over the past two days through the introduction of bills I am restricted from referring to. Rage is building in our communities from what is seen as a system that is failing them. I stand here and ask every single MP to combine in a collective force and say very clearly, 'Enough is enough.' It is time to honour all of those who have lost or had their lives irrevocably changed and to deliver to community expectations through new frameworks and legislation and increased powers and assistance to our front-liners. I make this plea on behalf of all those impacted by tragedy and on behalf of the beautiful Sharon Cuthbert, her loving family and all other victims and families with whom we grieve, left devastated from dangerous drivers and violent offenders. May the trauma, hardship and deaths at the hands of nature and these irresponsible and dangerous offenders be the catalyst for this change so desperately needed.