



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Volunteer Firefighters

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.21 pm): Tonight I rise to pay tribute to a group of brave community volunteers who have been pushed harder this year than ever before. Australia's volunteer firefighters have always been heroes. I know that no-one in here would argue with that, but this year the whole nation has come together to appreciate what these selfless legends do for our community and our country. I have said before how proud I am of my wife, Angie, who—we sat down and worked this out the other day—has been a rural firey for about 20 years in both Western Australia and Queensland, and my pride in her and others has grown immensely this season.

Over the years she has been on many deployments, but this year is a different one, as we all know. She has been on four and is currently away on another. Like all families you hate saying goodbye and you fear what they face every time they go to leave on a deployment, but I know how well our crews are prepared and trained and that helps give comfort. The workload has definitely been shared around, and if my wife has been on four alone it does not take much to work out that with the thousands of volunteer firefighters across the state just how many hours have been given and it gives a clear indication of how unprecedented this fire season is. It also illustrates that our volunteers and their families have put in this season like never before.

Late last year I was honoured to represent Minister Crawford at the handing over ceremony of six new appliances for brigades in the Moreton Bay region, and these have certainly been put to good use since. The pride our rural fireys have in their equipment and their role was on display that day, as it has been every time I have had interactions with them. It has not just been the Palaszczuk government's response to these fires throughout Australia that fills us with pride; the whole community has come together to help in any way that they can towards stopping the fires, helping the victims—both human and animal—and rebuilding.

I want to give a quick shout-out to some businesses and groups in my area that raised money to help. I know I will have missed some, but here we go: the Squealing Pig butcher; the Toasted Pig coffee shop; Narangba Valley Tavern, Central Tavern and the Petrie pub—all of the pubs in the Kurwongbah electorate, a perfect record; Ravneels Curry House; and the Pine Rivers Country Women's Association as well as many other community groups and businesses. Musicians, sporting professionals and celebrities have also stumped up, and kudos to them for doing that. I know we all work better when we work together and this disaster has brought us together as only tragic events of this magnitude can. I hope that in the studies and dissections of this fire season that will come we can continue to show this resolve together to stop it happening again and that we can accept the science of climate change and stop the silly political games that revolve around it.