

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

28 February 2019

Lauga praises “incredibly brave” firefighters

The “incredibly brave” men and women who battled “unprecedented bushfires” in Central Queensland late-2018 have been praised in a speech in Parliament by the Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga.

The Assistant Education Minister told Parliament the fires “felt like a dry cyclone and it caused fear and panic”.

Mrs Lauga highlighted the toughness and resilience of Central Queenslanders who, in the past few years, have endured a Category 5 cyclone, a major flood and the extremely serious bushfires late last year.

She said this “traumatic event” brought out the “remarkable” behaviour of communities at The Caves, Gracemere, Stanwell and Alton Downs and the invaluable role of emergency services in assisting residents, businesses and landholders.

“I saw the local permanent and volunteer firefighters, backed by colleagues from other parts of Queensland and interstate, do a wonderful job at protecting the people and their property in Central Queensland.

“They are incredibly brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our community.”

Mrs Lauga said Rural Fire Service Volunteers from Bungundarra, The Caves, Keppel Sands, Cawarral, Tanby and Adelaide Park brigades, within her electorate, all rose to the occasion.

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The Fire and Rescue Stations at Emu Park, North Rockhampton and Yeppoon played an incredibly important role too, she said.

Mrs Lauga singled out special praise for the Caves Rural Fire Brigade, QFES personnel and SES volunteers.

“These men and women did amazing job containing the fire at The Caves.

“They sacrificed their time but also made significant financial sacrifices as they missed work or (were unable to) run their businesses in order to keep our community safe.”

She especially praised a volunteer firefighter named Brad who fought fires at Mount Larcom and The Caves for over 8 days.

And noted The Caves Rural Fire Brigade volunteer Jenny Kingston who was a “behind the scenes angel of the brigade”.

“She cooks for the men and women firefighters, had the fridges stocked with water, soft drinks and Powerade and, when I visited the Brigade, she had a hearty chicken gravy dish simmering away in the slow cooker.

“Thanks so much Jenny for all that you do!”

Mrs Lauga said the smooth preparation for, and recovery after, the bushfires was a credit to the cooperation between all levels of government, including Rockhampton and Livingstone mayors, their respective Local Disaster Management Groups, the Member for Rockhampton, (Barry O’Rourke) and all of the respective State agencies involved.

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“Thank you to all of our local firefighters, both the volunteers and officers, who left their families to help keep our local families safe! We love your work!” said Mrs Lauga.

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