## The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

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Ref No: Your ref: 03042-2023 A1193567

Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk of the Parliament Queensland Parliamentary Service clerksoffice@parliament.gld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your email of 1 December 2023 to the then Minister for Fire and Emergency Services about the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3961-23 regarding Fire Danger Rating (FDR) signs in the Gold Coast hinterland.

Queensland is a State that experiences more disasters than any other State. The government is committed to ensuring effective messaging to the community to ensure they are always best prepared.

After disaster events, reviews are frequently conducted to ensure both messaging and response was both effective and efficient. This includes the bushfires that affected the hinterland community in 2019. Bushfires such as these can leave a lasting impact on the people affected and any improvements to reduce those impacts should be explored.

The new automated electronic signage being rolled out across the State is a significant improvement on the previous system. The old fire danger rating system and categories required local personnel to manually update, which is especially dangerous in busy operational periods where conditions can frequently change.

Many of the old signs, which were installed over more than a decade ago, were damaged, faded, or illegible to the travelling public.

I am pleased to inform that the FDR sign installation program will continue over the next two years. A specialist team will be onboarded as part of the program and will be responsible for identifying additional localities across the State where these signs can be effective, ensuring the highest overall benefit to the community.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) actively promotes information to support all Queenslanders to be familiar with the official Bushfire Warning System. The FDR signs are one part of a multilayered communications strategy utilised to inform Queensland communities of bushfire threats. QFES advises the public to tune into official QFES channels including the QFES website, QFES Facebook page and QFES X (formerly Twitter) as well as the local radio station to be informed about bushfire warnings.

Yours sincerely

The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP
Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and
Minister for Corrective Services