

MEDIA RELEASE

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New wave of firefighters arrive to continue to battle bushfires

Gladstone Airport was a hive of activity this morning with a heartfelt farewell for 100 firefighters departing our region and a welcome to 100 incoming firefighters arriving to continue the battle.

Gladstone Region Councillors were on hand at the firefighter changeover.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the Gladstone Region community could not thank these brave men and women enough.

“There are no words that can explain the depth of gratitude we have for these firefighters,” Councillor Burnett said.

“They put their hands up to help our region, volunteering their time and spending time away from their families and loved ones to confront danger.

“Their time and skills have assisted us during this traumatic time and our communities will forever remember and have a deep appreciation for their efforts.”

Cr Burnett said fire fighters from New South Wales and the ACT had today arrived to join the fight.

“We welcomed 100 firefighters from Dubbo and Canberra who will be deployed to fight fires across our region,” he said.

“An increase in humidity has made weather conditions slightly more favourable today but massive manpower efforts are still required in our communities being impacted by bushfires.

“We are extremely grateful for the arrival of these firefighters who have also put up their hands to willingly assist.”

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk flew into Gladstone this morning to tour communities impacted by bushfires across the region.

Speaking at a press conference in Miriam Vale she announced the State Government had donated \$125,000 to launch a Queensland Bushfire Appeal.

State Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher said he was appreciative of the Premier’s visit.

“We’ve be talking to the Premier about needing more people on the ground and it’s great that she has been able to view the region first-hand, thank those for their time and efforts in the region and also welcome fire fighters,” Mr Butcher said.