



### Adjournment Speech by

**GLEN ELMES**

*Member for Noosa*

*Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability*

Hansard, 23 April 2009

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### Volunteering

**Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (11.59 pm):** I rise to address the House tonight about a very special group of people, our volunteers, and acknowledge the remarkable contribution they make. National Volunteer Week will be celebrated between 11 and 17 May. The theme this year is: 'Volunteers: Everyday people, extraordinary contribution'. From the Volunteering Australia website I learned that about 34 per cent of our adult population are volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of any community. They help us achieve our vision of being a more caring society. They support business and organisations that carry out vital community projects. Most importantly, they bring a diversity and first-hand knowledge of their own skills to any venture they undertake.

The benefits of volunteering can be intangible. However, I can state with certainty that there would not be one member in the House tonight who would not join me in paying tribute to each and every community volunteer and thank them for their contribution to making our communities safer, greener, cleaner, brighter and happier.

In the Noosa electorate alone, there is a very long list of community groups that operate very successfully. In no particular order I would like to thank the members of the SES, the Coast Guard, the Noosa Parks Association, the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, RSPCA Noosa, Safety House, Neighbourhood Watch, all the hobby and sporting associations, wildlife carers, service groups, the hospital auxiliary, senior citizens and youth groups, ex-servicemen and women groups, Vietnam vets, the Cooroora Historical Society, the Eumundi Historical Society, arts and theatre groups, tourist information centres, Friends at Court, JPs and C.decs. Other groups include the Save the Mary River group, PAGE, Friends of Noosa, the EDV Group, resident and community associations, surf lifesaving clubs, local ambulance auxiliaries and many many more.

Collectively, these fantastic Queenslanders devote thousands of hours of their time for the benefit of others and for the betterment of their community. Volunteers, through their selfless dedication and goodwill, are what makes our state and our nation great and it is their fine example that will serve to inspire future generations of Australians.

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