



## Dr Joe McGirr MP, Member for Wagga Wagga

Legislative Assembly Hansard – 23 August 2023

### BURNING GENERATION

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—I wish to acknowledge the work of the young student artists from Batlow in the "Burning Generation" exhibition that has been displayed at the Tumut Visitors Centre. I recently visited the exhibition and was impressed with the talent and passion of the young artists: Tilly Connolly, Cat Jackson, Jonny Minogue, Corrinne Jackson, Lillie Linden, Elisha Olsen, Lilly Barrett. The exhibition will help visitors understand the experience of young people of the Black Summer Fires otherwise known as the Dunns Road Fire that burnt an estimated 333,940 hectares and came very close to destroying the town of Batlow. The exhibition features the work of local young people affected by those bushfires in Batlow, who participated in a series of workshops to build up their skills before presenting these final works. A special thanks to Project Leader Dr Rachael Fox and Andrew McGrath of the Charles Sturt School of Psychology, as well as Claire Harris of Create Hub Riverina, who collaborated with students to bring the exhibition to life. I commend all those who made this happen. We must continue to reflect on the experience of that terrible summer.

