



Speech by

Hon. MERRI ROSE

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard 9 June 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Emergency Services Advisory Council

Hon. M. ROSE (Currumbin—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.10 a.m.), by leave: Cabinet recently approved the composition of the Emergency Services Advisory Council—the community-based body which will advise me on emergency service delivery. ESAC will be headed by former South Coast Regional Health Authority chair Eda Beck. The 14-person council also includes ambulance, fire, surf lifesaving, volunteer marine rescue, State Emergency Service, local government, indigenous and community representatives.

I am delighted with the composition and balance of the council and the fact that it will be headed by Ms Beck, who has a wealth of experience in health care delivery. It is highly representative of the community and council members have complementary expertise and experience and, most importantly, a common trait of being ready to play a role in improving the delivery of emergency services to Queenslanders.

Ms Beck currently is a lecturer at the School of Health Science at Griffith University. She has worked at senior levels in the health systems of Victoria and the Northern Territory before moving to Queensland. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Management and the Australian Psychological Society and immediate past president of the Australian Institute of Management, Gold Coast Division. She holds a Master of Administration, Diploma of Criminology and a Bachelor of Arts.

Aboriginal Coordinating Council chair Wayne Connelly, Livingstone Shire Mayor Barbara Wildin, Emergency Services Director-General Michael Kinnane, United Firefighters Union vice-president Mark Gribble, Deputy Local Controller of the Redcliffe SES, Sandra Elliott, Sunshine Coast structural engineer and surf lifesaver Teresa Grant, former member of the QAS board Lisette Brake, Auxiliary Firefighters Association representative Allan Faulks, Volunteer Marine Rescue Association secretary-manager Harry Hubner, Rural Fires Council nominee Lynette Munt, Rural Fire Brigades Association vice-president Betty Wait, Noosa Shire councillor Linley Midgley and ambulance officer Adele Major complete the council.

The council's role will be primarily to provide advice to me on the extent to which the delivery of fire, ambulance and other disaster management and emergency services meets community needs. It will provide a dynamic forum for discussion of issues affecting the emergency services and help build even more productive partnerships between the emergency services and local communities. Members will also seek solutions to service delivery problems in communities across the State.

Another role will be to encourage and support the development of effective community safety and awareness programs. ESAC will act as a consumer feedback forum, allowing greater community input into the delivery of emergency services. The council will meet three to four times a year and will cost an estimated \$50,000 a year to run—compared with around \$350,000 per annum for the QAS and QFRA boards it replaces.
