



Speech by

**Mr S. ROBERTSON**

**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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Hansard 9 November 2000

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Emergency Services**

**Hon. S. ROBERTSON** (Sunnybank—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.12 a.m.), by leave: The Beattie Labor Government was elected on a commitment to put Emergency Services on a more secure financial footing and improve service delivery to the community. As part of our commitment to a safer Queensland, we have honoured our election promises by providing record funding to Emergency Services in each of Labor's three Budgets to date.

Our achievements in Emergency Services since coming to office speak for themselves. In 1997-98 under the coalition, the department's budget was a total of \$391.8m. This year, the Beattie Labor Government is providing Emergency Services with a budget of some \$480m. Over the past two Budgets, the Beattie Government has also injected more than \$110m into capital works funding to improve service delivery and response times. We are achieving these goals by providing over 400 new or replacement fire and ambulance vehicles plus 36 new, replacement or refurbished fire and ambulance stations throughout Queensland.

Another election commitment was delivered in January 1999 with the provision of free ambulance services to all pensioners, Seniors Card holders and their dependants. Approximately 850,000 Queenslanders benefit from the scheme that gives older Queenslanders peace of mind and lightens their financial load.

The Queensland Ambulance Service in particular has benefited under this Government with more money for ambulance stations, vehicles, equipment and officers. The QAS budget has grown from \$158m in 1997-98 under the coalition to a record \$214.4m this financial year under Labor. In recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of officially opening three new ambulance stations that honour election commitments to those local communities. The new \$877,000 Northgate Ambulance Station is a vast improvement on the old Nundah station it replaces and will improve service delivery and response times to Brisbane Airport and residents of northern suburbs like Hendra, Hamilton, Eagle Farm, Clayfield, Wavell heights, Virginia, Banyo, and Nudgee. The new \$746,000 Centenary Ambulance Station I opened last week will significantly improve emergency response times to residents in Brisbane's south-western suburbs. Along with Kenmore and Oxley stations, it will cover suburbs including Oxley, Corinda, Sherwood, Sinnamon Park, Jindalee, Mount Ommaney, Middle Park, Darra and Seventeen Mile Rocks.

I also recently opened the new \$686,000 combined ambulance and fire station at Rosewood, honouring an election commitment by the former member for Ipswich West, Mr Don Livingstone. Construction of this station followed extensive community consultation and modification of the facility's original design, but the people of Rosewood now have a new combined fire and ambulance station that will serve them well into the future. This Government is proud of its record in Emergency Services and we are delivering on all of our election commitments.

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