



Speech by

Mr S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Emergency Service

Hon. S. ROBERTSON (Sunnybank—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: In a few weeks we celebrate SES Week and the 25th anniversary of the State Emergency Service in Queensland. The SES in Queensland was born out of the disastrous 1974 Brisbane floods and is an organisation recognised for the vital and much-appreciated role that it plays in local communities throughout the State. SES volunteers are our front-line troops during natural disasters and other emergencies. They are dedicated people who work selflessly and tirelessly, and often in hazardous circumstances, to assist their local community in times of flood, cyclone, fire and other emergencies. SES volunteers are regularly called out to assist police in search and rescue operations and to support fire brigades during bushfire emergencies. They are also highly skilled in areas such as road accident rescue.

The Beattie Government is proud of its record of support for the SES and is committed to a strong service that has the funding, operational support and training necessary to do its job. We also believe that the 25th anniversary of the SES in Queensland is an important milestone and cause for celebration. Accordingly, my department is supporting a wide range of local events and activities that will be conducted by SES units throughout Queensland during SES Week commencing on 9 December. We are providing \$25,000 to be equally distributed among district offices to support local celebratory activities by SES units and a further \$50,000 on promotional items such as lapel badges, fridge magnets and bumper stickers for use by SES units. An official history of the 25 years of the SES in Queensland is also being written.

On 10 December, I will join volunteer SES members in Hervey Bay to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this marvellous organisation and officially launch SES Week. On 12 December, the State Government, in conjunction with SES volunteers, will stage an event on the Brisbane River to showcase the wide-ranging skills of SES volunteers as part of SES Week activities.

The cornerstone of this event will be the official release of the new SES strategic plan. This strategic plan has been developed with considerable input from SES volunteers across Queensland and will be the blueprint for the future of the State Emergency Service over the next five years.

The Beattie Government believes that the State Emergency Service and its thousands of volunteers deserve great recognition for their dedicated service to Queensland communities. I urge all Queenslanders to show their support for the SES by getting involved in the 25th anniversary celebrations that will be staged in their local communities next month.
