



Speech by

**Hon. Pat Purcell**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Emergency Services Infrastructure

**Hon. PD PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.19 am): Queensland's Department of Emergency Services is a world leader in providing integrated delivery of preparation, mitigation, response and recovery services for emergency situations. The department can point to a proud record since the Beattie government came to power. This includes record funding, record staff numbers, and training, vehicles, equipment and facilities that are first class.

I would like to mention just some examples. First, the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy that we have established at Whyte Island is a national and international centre of excellence. It is used for vital breathing apparatus and hazardous materials training facilities. Second, the multiservice Special Operations Centre at Cannon Hill enables expert emergency response teams to be deployed throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region within hours of a disaster. Third, the State Operations Coordination Centre at Kedron was launched in September 2005. It provides an operational coordination centre with a 24-hour capability that can be activated during large-scale emergency incidents, such as cyclones Larry and Monica.

Other examples include: the \$14 million Roma Street joint ambulance and fire facility currently being constructed. To save time, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

- Significant upgrades to the department's computer aided dispatch system for responding to emergency calls.
- Delivering purpose built fire trucks for use where urban and rural areas meet, which are a bushfire hotspot zone.
- Funding for the replacement of the entire fleet of Emergency Management Queensland rescue helicopters.
- Implementing the volunteer support package, to provide better equipment and facilities, including more personal protective equipment, for SES, rural fire and marine rescue volunteers.

Mr Speaker, I could point to dozens of other examples where the department has delivered new and improved facilities and equipment for staff, to help them better serve the community.

I can assure the House that Emergency Services won't be resting on its laurels.

As Tuesday's record budget for Emergency Services showed, this government will continue providing even more resources to enable staff and volunteers to continue helping all Queenslanders.

*Tabled paper:* Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. P Purcell titled 'Department of Emergency Services Infrastructure Achievements'.