




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): With the Commonwealth Games less than four weeks away, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is now on the home straight in terms of preparation. When the Gold Coast games burst out of the blocks, it will bring an end to three years of meticulous planning for QFES. The Palaszczuk government and QFES are committed to providing a memorable and safe experience for athletes, officials, spectators and visitors to the games. Our \$11 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel.

I recently attended a session for some of those personnel—around 400 volunteers—who have undergone specialist training in the lead-up to the games. QFES volunteers will play a significant role during the games performing up to 13 roles. There are about 1,000 shifts, 11 days of competition and a range of roles from waterway operations and aircraft support crews to mountain bike medical crews. Queenslanders should feel very confident that the level of training delivered to volunteers will reflect on the service provided during the games. QFES volunteers are hugely dedicated, so the induction training is simply another step in providing the support they need to shape an incredible experience for everyone involved.

QFES personnel have also been put through their paces during a series of realistic exercises. Just last week Exercise Home Run was held specifically for staff working in the event coordination centre and event control rooms at games venues. The exercise tested personnel in real time, simulating a normal day of operations during the event. The event coordination centre will play a pivotal role in ensuring public safety during the games. It will be the main base of operations for QFES deployment and will coordinate all functional and operational requirements. Exercise Home Run is yet another example of QFES's commitment to ensuring the agency is ready to respond to any emergency that may arise during the games.

I recently spent some time inspecting games venues and receiving updates from QFES personnel on the Gold Coast. I visited the athletes village, the aquatic centre, the uniform accreditation centre, Robina Stadium and Carrara Stadium. A real highlight was inspecting the Joint Emergency Services Coordination Centre, or JESCC. It is a state-of-the-art, multiagency emergency coordination facility that will become the nerve centre of security operations for the games. The JESCC has been purpose built by the Palaszczuk government and will go on to be a significant legacy on the Gold Coast from the Commonwealth Games.

Another part of our preparations is to ensure all competition venues and other important sites all across the precincts have achieved building fire safety compliance. QFES has been collaborating with New South Wales—Fire & Rescue NSW, New South Wales State Emergency Service and NSW Rural Fire Service—to strengthen cross-border arrangements and put some support arrangements in place

for the games given the location in comparison to the state border. In my opinion, QFES has delivered a gold-winning performance and Queenslanders should feel very confident that the level of training being delivered will reflect on the quality of service provided during the games.