




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): With the Commonwealth Games almost upon us, the world is about to see the results of the gold-winning preparation of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The Palaszczuk government and QFES is committed to providing an enjoyable and safe experience for athletes, officials, spectators and visitors to the games. Our \$11.35 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel, comprising 400 staff and 450 volunteers.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of meeting some of those personnel attached to our dedicated QFES Commonwealth Games Office. Some of those staff have been working in that team for three years. I make specific mention of the work of Chief Superintendent Darryl King and Assistant Commissioner John Watson in spearheading the massive games effort. Their team has been liaising closely with games partners to ensure a collaborated approach to emergency planning for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

A key lesson learned from the Glasgow 2014 games by the Scotland Fire and Rescue Service was the importance of establishing early a project team to develop key partnerships and collaboratively plan and apply an integrated approach to emergency planning and response across the games. QFES has listened to those learnings and has adopted a meticulous, collaborative approach to ensure our organisation is well integrated with other emergency services and agencies, and is highly trained and well resourced to support public safety during the games.

Like all of us, excluding of course some of those opposite, QFES cannot wait for the starter's gun to fire on the games. Under our Operation Paratus, QFES has entered the fifth phase of preparations—that is, deployment. That phase follows 39 months of working on strategic planning, operational planning, preparedness and readiness activities. Already, the first batch of QFES personnel is setting up operational base facilities. They have established an on-site presence at the games village and other locations. Our personnel will continue deploying from Brisbane to the Gold Coast in the lead-up to 4 April and will be based at all games venues, as well as outdoor events and games festival celebrations. The presence of our highly skilled staff and volunteers will mean that, no matter what event you are attending, specialists in fire, rescue and emergency response will be on hand at all times should an emergency arise.

During the Commonwealth Games, the QFES workforce will participate in the equivalent of more than 3,400 operational shifts. Queenslanders should feel confident that, like the athletes who will take part in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, QFES will deliver a winning performance through meticulous planning and hard work. Bring on the games!