




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government's budget commits a record \$702 million to QFES in 2018-19, promising to deliver jobs and upgraded front-line services all across this fantastic state. The funding represents an increase of \$38 million on the previous year, confirming our government's commitment to Queenslanders.

We know that Queenslanders see more than their fair share of natural disasters and emergencies. That is why, delivering on the Premier's election promise, we are committed to providing 100 front-line firefighters and 12 communication officers across the next four years. The amount of \$82 million will be invested into Fire and Emergency Services facilities, vehicles, information and communication systems, and also equipment. Our government has allocated funds for the commencement and delivery of new auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Rathdowney, Richmond, Al Arish, Esk, Kilkivan, Wooroolin, Yarraman and Gracemere. Gracemere will receive funding for a \$2.1 million state-of-the-art fire and rescue station in our 2018-19 budget—I know the member for Rockhampton will be very pleased with that—confirming our government's commitment to Central Queensland.

Replacing or upgrading ageing facilities will improve response times, deliver enhanced services and support community growth. That is why a further \$2.5 million will ensure fire and rescue stations at Loganlea, Mount Ommaney and West Logan receive their appropriate upgrades. The budget includes funds committed during the election campaign towards the commencement of a new QFES complex at Maleny that will accommodate the local Rural Fire Service, the SES and the auxiliary fire service. I am sure the member for Glass House will be stoked about that.

It is not just stations that will be funded in this year's budget. We have allocated \$44.3 million for 180 new urban and rural fire appliances across Queensland for our staff and volunteers. Every single one of the new rural fire appliances—119 of them—going out to the Rural Fire Service will have a defibrillator fitted to it next year. It is not just about the fleet. Stations on Horn Island and at Howard and Mount Isa will all receive upgrades. Cairns and Rockhampton stations will receive upgrades to their communication facilities so that our call takers and dispatchers can do their work. On Horn Island we are going to be building a new combined Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service facility, and at Weipa we are going to be building a new disaster and emergency management centre. All across Queensland, from the top to the bottom, from the west to the east, the record QFES budget coming out today is something that I am very proud of and that I am sure all Queenslanders will be stoked with.