



Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Budget, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.10 am): During last year's election campaign, the Premier promised to invest \$29.5 million over four years to boost Queensland's world-leading fire and emergency services. At the time, the Premier said that funding from a re-elected Labor government would equate to an additional 100 firefighters and 12 fire communication officers statewide. I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government has delivered on that promise, with a record \$702 million budget commitment for QFES in 2018-19.

QFES will fully implement the Premier's election pledge by recruiting an extra 25 full-time firefighters this calendar year and another 25 full-time firefighters each calendar year for the next three years. The QFES commissioner will determine the recruitment program for the 12 additional full-time fire communication officers and all those officers will be deployed across Queensland, including to regional areas most at risk from natural disasters. Often Queensland is at the mercy of extreme weather events and it is vital that our entire state has the highly skilled Fire and Emergency Services teams required to respond swiftly and effectively if disaster strikes.

A sum of \$44 million has been allocated for the replacement and delivery of 180 new QFES urban and rural fire appliances. This government does not discriminate when it comes to who gets what. So far this year, I have travelled to 45 electorates around the state, 21 of them held by the LNP, including the opposition leader's patch, and all three held by the Katter party. I have had the privilege of personally opening nine QFES stations, in total valued at more than \$25 million, including the facility at Mackay with the Premier, as well as at Proserpine, Bundaberg and Charleville.

Since the start of this calendar year I have personally handed over more than 20 new fire appliances, flood boats and trailers, worth about another \$10 million. I want to attend as many of those events as possible, because it allows me to tell QFES personnel just how much we appreciate their commitment and dedication. This government is committed to ensuring QFES continues to meet the growing demand for fire and emergency services and continues to deliver first-class world-class services to Queenslanders, no matter their postcode.