




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.40 pm): I welcome the opportunity to endorse and comment on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report to parliament. I would like to thank the chair, the members of the committee and the secretariat for their work.

The Palaszczuk government has been, and will continue to be, committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. One way we are achieving this is through our record \$702 million QFES budget for 2018-19. Nowhere in Australia is the public more at the mercy of natural disasters than in Queensland. That is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world and why the Palaszczuk government is focused on maintaining their high standards.

Queensland is growing and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it. With that, I want to mention INSARAG and our USAR team, who are at Whyte Island this week reclassifying. This is our international search and rescue response team, named AUS-1. They have to reclassify every five years to international standards. I wish them the best this week. This is the team that responds to international earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, cyclones—you name it and they are out there.

Our government budget is delivering on our promise to provide new jobs and upgraded front-line services, facilities and equipment. That includes investing \$82.3 million into fire and emergency services facilities, vehicles, information and communication systems and equipment. Just over \$32 million has been allocated for capital works projects in 2018-19. I am delighted to say that 21 projects are in the design phase, under construction or set to be built.

Those projects include: a \$2.2 million facility at Richmond in the northern region, a \$2.8 million station on Horn Island in the Far North region, a \$3.7 million facility at Childers in the north coast region, a \$1.5 million upgrade of Mount Ommaney's station in the Brisbane region, a \$1.2 million Charleville office in the south-western region and Rockhampton station's \$3.4 million Firecoms centre in the central region. It also includes \$3 million for a brand-new fire and rescue station at Pimpama on the Gold Coast. I had the opportunity to brief the member for Coomera on that project only about half an hour ago.

Replacing or upgrading ageing facilities will improve our response times, guarantee enhanced services and support community growth. These facilities will help equip staff and volunteers, in both an urban and a rural setting, with everything required for a modern fire and rescue response.

During estimates the opposition wanted to focus on my travel, but what they did not want to focus on was the almost 60 electorates that I have visited so far in my short eight months as Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. I have seen firsthand what a difference the additions of these stations and fleet make towards day-to-day operations of our hardworking crews.

Our government is investing \$44.3 million this financial year into the replacement and delivery of 180 new urban and rural fire appliances. Last week I was with the member for Scenic Rim at the fire and rescue stations at Tamborine Mountain and Beaudesert, where we handed over the first and the second of those new appliances coming off the line.

I note the interest from the opposition with respect to female numbers in our ranks. I want to put on record that, during the first term of the Palaszczuk government, QFES ran 11 recruit courses. During the LNP term in office, they ran seven. During the first term of the Palaszczuk government, we graduated 215 firefighters. During the LNP's time, they graduated 150. During the first term of the Palaszczuk government, 24 female firefighters graduated. During the LNP's term, it was 15. Those statistics reveal that under our watch there has been an increase of more than 60 per cent in the number of female graduates.

Finally, there were some questions about smoke detectors and insects in smoke detectors. I did a little bit of homework, the member for Gregory will be pleased to know. The Australian Standard was changed in 2014. Photoelectric smoke detectors prior to 2014 had no requirement for insect protection. As of 2014, there is now a standard about specific mesh size for smoke detectors. I hope that has clarified that.

(Time expired)