




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.04 am): I join others in honouring Duncan Pegg and pay tribute to his service, friendship and character.

This government is delivering 357 additional firefighters over five years. We made this commitment in the lead-up to the last election, and this is a government which delivers on its promises. Queensland firefighters are resilient and always ready to swiftly respond when disaster strikes. They put their lives on the line to protect the lives of others and today's state budget will back in the work that they do to keep all Queenslanders safe. This budget is an investment in community safety. It is an investment in resources; frontline equipment; vehicles; bushfire mitigation; planning, response and recovery; predictive services; and bushfire management. Queensland experiences around 60 per cent of the nation's natural disasters every year and our first responders are being called on more and more to protect Queenslanders when disaster strikes. Their hours are not nine to five. Their job puts them in harm's way, and for that we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

This budget will fund more new vehicles for our professional firefighters and our Rural Fire Service volunteers. In fact, we are more than doubling the budget for Rural Fire Service appliances. That is \$12.5 million for new yellow trucks for Queensland's dedicated volunteers. It marks the continuation of a six-year commitment from this government that has delivered more than 620 Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service vehicles—and, for the interest of the Prime Minister, every one of those vehicles comes equipped with up to three hoses and all the equipment required for protecting the community. That means that if the Prime Minister wants to hold a hose he can hold a hose here in Queensland!

As part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery, this budget supports the continued investment in vital infrastructure for Queensland's emergency services front line with projects including Gracemere, Rainbow Beach, Rosewood, Mount Cotton and Maleny, among others. This budget also backs our hardworking volunteers from the Rural Fire Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and the State Emergency Service. Because this government values the role of all of our emergency volunteers, we are also progressing a body of work and have established a process to engage with key stakeholders about the next steps towards building a stronger, more resilient emergency services delivery framework. Safer and more secure communities are part of our government's plan for Queensland's economic recovery.