



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Emergency Services**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): Our frontline emergency service first responders and volunteers are always there when trouble strikes. They are always there whether it is flood, fire, storm, cyclone, or indeed any other sort of emergency. The Palaszczuk government is repaying that commitment from these dedicated selfless Queenslanders with record investments.

The record \$1 billion QFES budget includes a record \$125 million in capital works programs for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, including land acquisitions and new, replacement and upgraded facilities in centres the length and breadth of the state. Importantly, it also includes funding to refresh the bushfire safety and preparedness messaging with greater reach to Queensland communities.

Diving deeper into this record budget, we see that there is a record \$57 million for the SES, building on our watershed uplift from last year and an almost tripling of the SES budget in just a few years. This record budget includes an additional 105 permanent full-time-equivalent positions for the SES over two years, with 75 being delivered this financial year. For the State Emergency Service, it will mean more staff, more training, more equipment and more resources, including emergency response vehicles and significant funding for capital grants.

It is the same for the Rural Fire Service: a record budget of \$101 million and an increase of almost 40 per cent in one year, a record budget to support the Rural Fire Service to protect Queenslanders from bushfires in a changing climate. It includes a dedicated capital works program with more facilities, more resources and more equipment for Rural Fire Service volunteers, and includes new and replacement fire appliances, new support vehicles, new and upgraded rural fire brigade facilities, the continuation on the new Maryborough area brigade headquarters, new operational equipment, retrofitting of cabinet deluge systems and capital grants. These funding increases represent the start of an over \$500 million funding package over five years, including 500 additional full-time-equivalent positions to deliver better fire and emergency services for a safer Queensland.

Finally, in respect of Marine Rescue, the Marine Rescue team will go full throttle this year with the Palaszczuk government delivering the first year of \$27 million in annual ongoing funding. This is to support the delivery of a single integrated service called Marine Rescue Queensland. It will be a big year that will see the first vessels hitting the water, with the delivery of the very first vessel to Thursday Island imminent and many more in the pipeline for delivery across the state.

The front line protects Queenslanders. These dedicated staff, officers and volunteers represent the very best of all of us, always there to stand shoulder to shoulder with their local communities, always there to lend a hand. They deserve every support, and that is what the Palaszczuk government delivers for them.

