

Question on Notice No. 1041, Thursday, 2 September 2004

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -

As the Redlands Shire is experiencing significant residential growth –
How is the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service planning to meet the growing calls for service?

Mr CUMMINS:

I thank the Member for his Question and would like to congratulate him on his ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within his electorate.

More than \$300 million will be spent on fire and rescue services as part of a continued boost to emergency services across Queensland. A total of \$303.54 million has been allocated to provide fire and rescue services across the State. The latest funding increase means that since 1998, under the Beattie Labor Government, funding for fire services in Queensland has risen by about \$110 million – well ahead of the level of inflation. The Beattie Government is continuing to deliver improved fire services to Queensland communities with fire station upgrades, new emergency vehicles and enhanced fire prevention and safety programs.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) are continually monitoring the demographic growth in Queensland to ascertain service delivery requirements.

Over the last three financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 crews have responded to structural fires within urban levy boundaries in an average of seven minutes and fifty-seven seconds (Capalaba) and eight minutes and eight seconds (Cleveland).

Critical infrastructure such as the building of main roads, land use and demographic growth is continuing to be monitored by the QFRS through the collection of data from State and Local Government agencies.

The Redland Bay and surrounding areas, along with other Queensland growth areas are part of the capital works infrastructure review.

The monitoring of demographic growth and other factors is presently being considered within the Redland Shire area and an appropriate site will be identified and projected into the QFRS budget cycle in future years.