

Question on Notice No. 1067, Tuesday, 28 September 2004

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

With reference to his answer to my question about the replacement of the Nambour Fire Station and service delivery –

- (1) What priority has the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service placed on the replacement of the Nambour Fire Station?
- (2) How many meetings of the Review Committee have been held since 17 August 2004 and who attended these meetings?
- (3) Why is the implementation of this plan dependent on the completion of the service delivery plan for south east Queensland?
- (4) What additional information is required in relation to the future road planning in Nambour and who does he need this information from?

Mr CUMMINS

As I have previously stated, the Beattie Government has allocated more than \$300 million 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 almost doubled – 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.

In March 2004 the QFRS initiated a project to review service delivery planning in South East Queensland. The project team consists of representatives from Executive Management and Regional Planners from the North Coast Region, Brisbane Region and South Eastern Region.

The review project involves the identification of future service delivery requirements. Extensive research is underway to further develop area profiles and documentation to assist with the analysis of future service delivery requirements. The development and implementation of future service delivery plans will be dependant upon the completion of the South East Queensland Project.

Nambour and neighbouring areas are being analysed in the broader QFRS South East Queensland Service Delivery Plan. Once completed, the QFRS will be able to determine its priority for the QFRS Capital Acquisition Detailed Schedule beyond this financial year.

Since 17 August 2004 the QFRS have done extensive community profiling, data collection and collation which is being conducted by the regional planners to assist with the development of the South East Queensland Service Delivery Plan.

September 2001 saw the launch of SEQ2021-A Sustainable Future. Enormous growth is forecast for this region in the next 25 years with the resident population expected to increase in this region by over a million people.

To address this anticipated growth, the QFRS is undertaking extensive research to ensure equitable service delivery into the future. The research captures topography, demographic and fire specific mapping tools. This data will enable the QFRS to determine a comprehensive list of priority locations and timeframes in the South East Queensland Service Delivery Plan.

Currently information is being sourced from Main Roads for the possibility of future Bruce Highway upgrades that may provide alternate highway access to the Nambour CBD. The QFRS will use this information to assist in identifying a strategic location that offers enhanced service delivery in the future.

After your discussions with my office I wrote to the Minister for Transport, Hon Paul Lucas MP about this issue and a reply will be available in due course.