

Question on Notice No 1084, Wednesday, 29 September 2004.

Mr Finn asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –

How has the recently opened Emergency Services facility at Archerfield airport benefited the delivery of services in south east Queensland?

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.

Queensland Rescue completed the move to the new facility at Archerfield Airport in September 2003 and the facility was officially opened on 11 March 2004 by the Honourable the Premier and Minister for Trade.

The new hangar facility houses the twin engine Bell 412 helicopter and single engine Squirrel helicopter. Hangar facilities include office and sleeping accommodation, locker room, operations room, maintenance workshop, conference room, store rooms, kitchen and toilet facilities.

The new hangar facility accommodates the Base Manager, four line pilots, the Senior Air Crew Officer, four Air Crew Officers, five Rescue Crew Officers, a Base Engineer, and an administrative officer. The facility also accommodates Queensland Rescue's Senior Management team, comprising the Chief Pilot, the Deputy Chief Pilot, the Chief Air Crew Officer, the Chief Engineer and an administrative officer.

There are a number of immediate and long term benefits in the delivery of services in south-east Queensland as a result of the move to the new hangar facility including:

- Queensland Rescue helicopters no longer have to cross the main departure/approach path of Archerfield Airport and are now able to fly direct to Brisbane's major hospitals to collect specialist medical teams thereby minimizing response times. Previously the location of the old hangar facility meant that helicopters had to cross the main runway.
- The purpose built operations room has provided a much improved working facility in which air crew can plan the conduct of aeromedical and air rescue missions.
- Improved training facilities which assist in ensuring that air crews are prepared in the best possible way to conduct safe operations.

- Sleeping accommodation for duty aircrew is no longer adjacent to a noisy industrial workshop. This is proving to be of benefit already to duty aircrew in terms of rest and flight duty time requirements.
- The new hangar facility also provides a vastly improved working environment for aircraft maintenance. This has potential long term benefits in relation to aircraft availability.
- Fewer noise complaints particularly during night operations as the new hangar is located on the western side of Archerfield Airport, further away from residential properties.