

Question on Notice No. 1092, Wednesday, 29 September 2004

Mr LEE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -
How many fire trucks are there in 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.

More than \$300 million will be spent on fire and rescue services as part of a continued boost to emergency services across Queensland. 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.

\$15.75 million will be spent on delivering an estimated 100 new urban and rural fire vehicles and trailers, while almost \$15.8 million has been allocated for fire stations, land purchases and other operational equipment.

As of September 2004, the QFRS has 454 urban fire vehicles, and 875 rural fire vehicles in service.

More than \$5.7 million will also be spent on a range of communications projects including improvements to dispatch systems, radio networks and data collection systems and for information technology upgrades. Funds have also been allocated to employ an additional 10 fire officers to support a new high-rise response aerial fire truck for the Sunshine Coast.

New training positions will also be created to drive rural-urban fire safety while additional officers will be appointed in the community safety areas to meet growing demands in that area.

Record funding has again been allocated for training and professional development and for carrying out the QFRS's highly-respected community safety activities.

Special funding has been allocated as part of a five-year \$3.5 million plan to improve training and reference material for our rural firefighters.

There will be relocated, replacement or upgraded stations at Arana Hills, Cairns, Cannon Hill, Highfields, Mt Gravatt/Wishart, Forest Hill, Mornington Island, Taigum, Taringa, Ayr, Innisfail, Petrie and Roma Street.

More funding has again been allocated for the delivery of community safety activities like the QFRS's highly successful programs Fire Ed, Operation Safehome, Fight Fire Fascination and the Road Awareness and Accident Prevention Program.