

Question on Notice No.167, 22 April 2004

**Mr ROWELL**, Member for Hinchinbrook asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -

With reference to the levy for Queensland Ambulance Service –

- (1) Will he provide a summary of the revenue received, to date, from the \$88 per annum collected from electricity consumers?
- (2) What expenditure can be detailed in financing the current cost of operating the ambulance service?

**Mr CUMMINS:**

- (1) The Community Ambulance Cover levy provides all Queenslanders with access to ambulance services and ensures a stable and secure funding source for the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Government collects the levy under the *Community Ambulance Cover Act 2003* which the Treasurer is responsible for administering. Questions relating to its operation, including revenue collections, should be directed to the Treasurer.

However, the estimated actual amount of revenue collected by the levy in the first year of its operation will be shown in the budget papers which are due to be released on 15 June 2004.

- (2) The funds allocated from all sources for the Queensland Ambulance service for 2003-04 were outlined in last year's Budget Papers.

The 2003-04 Budget for the QAS totals \$276.2 million. This has enabled the QAS to employ an additional 110 paramedics this year. As well as this in this 3 year term of parliament we will recruit at least 240 extra Paramedics over three years on top of the 110 we will recruit this year. That is an additional \$35.9 M commitment.

Across the state we will deliver 22 new or refurbished ambulance stations at a cost of \$28.6 M.

\$ 29.5 M will be provided for 200 new or refurbished ambulance vehicles. Money very well spent, ensuring Queenslanders have the best emergency services possible.