

**Question on Notice No 227,**

**Mr MCARDLE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –

Will he provide the total expenditure of the Department of Emergency Services on personal safety equipment for volunteer/rural fire fighters in each rural fire division and brigade in Queensland for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 year to date reported separately?

**Mr CUMMINS:**

As the safety of all rural volunteers is of prime concern to the Beattie government, we have spent increasing amounts each financial year on providing, free of charge, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to each active volunteer.

There are over 44,000 rural volunteers across Queensland committed to safeguarding their communities. There are 1575 rural fire brigades that receive funding for:

- Personal protective equipment provided at no cost
- Subsidised fire fighting equipment provided at 50% subsidy
- Communications equipment provided at 75% subsidy
- Fire fighting appliances provided at 80% subsidy

In the financial year 2003/04 the brigades will be provided with forty-nine (49) medium attack Isuzu appliances, four (4) cab chassis for tanker construction and ten (10) fire fighting trailers. The total vehicle budget is \$3.8M.

Brigades have been progressively provided with PPE over time. A breakdown of these figures by Rural Fire Service district is available for the latter two years. The Beattie Government will continue to make vital equipment available to our Rural Fire volunteers, who play an integral part in rural fire management in Queensland.

The Beattie Labor Government is committed to ensuring the funding available to rural fire brigades will allow the volunteers to commit their time to improving their existing skills and participating in training to assist their communities in fire mitigation and fire suppression. The Government recognises and values the commitment and dedication of the rural volunteers and the staff of the Rural Fire Service, who support them in providing safer communities from the “iZone” to the most remote rural areas of the state.

03-04 Financial Year ( to date )

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BARCALDINE	\$18,010.06
BUNDABERG	\$58,654.11
CABOOLTURE	\$100,026.24
CAIRNS PENINSULA	\$42,653.18
CHARTERS TOWERS	\$34,064.16
CLONCURRY	\$2,527.36
EMERALD	\$17,166.49
INNISFAIL	\$26,066.18
IPSWICH	\$95,095.34
MACKAY	\$35,290.73
MARYBOROUGH	\$44,519.37
MILES	\$20,654.74
ROCKHAMPTON	\$31,577.01
ROMA	\$3,372.56
TOOWOOMBA	\$45,080.70

02-03 Financial Year

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BARCALDINE	\$7,349.37
BUNDABERG	\$37,061.84
CABOOLTURE	\$123,739.14
CAIRNS PENINSULA	\$44,664.68
CHARTERS TOWERS	\$48,917.25
CLONCURRY	\$267.91
EMERALD	\$13,877.03
INNISFAIL	\$19,179.19
IPSWICH	\$79,456.73
MACKAY	\$39,902.56
MARYBOROUGH	\$46,213.82
MILES	\$19,684.47
ROCKHAMPTON	\$28,664.34
ROMA	\$4,197.21
TOOWOOMBA	\$49,967.48