

Question on Notice No. 645, Tuesday 15 June 2004

Mrs SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –

With reference to the State Government's Ambulance levy –

How has it enhanced the ambulance service in the Pumicestone Electorate?

Mr CUMMINS:

I would like to thank the Member for Pumicestone for her interest and ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within her electorate. This gives me an opportunity to highlight the tremendous increases in funding that the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has received under the Beattie Government. The introduction of the Community Ambulance Cover has delivered the QAS a solid and predictable funding base for the first time in its 112 year history.

The benefits to all Queenslanders, including those in the electorate of Pumicestone, include:

- Free ambulance services for all State residents for acute and non-acute pre-hospital emergency care.

Additional QAS resource allocation in the areas include:

- Staff;
- Vehicles;
- Equipment; and
- Stations.

The existing Ambulance Stations of Caboolture and Bribie Island currently support the electorate of Pumicestone.

The constituents of the electorate of Pumicestone and surrounding areas have the following improvements occurring within the area:

- The increase of ambulance positions by 32 officers in the Brisbane Region. Included in this figure are eight additional staff positions allocated to the Northern Area (Brisbane), which will assist to support the Pumicestone electorate.

These initiatives will assist the developing electorate of Pumicestone to continue to receive a high standard of ambulance service delivery by the QAS.

The Beattie Government's election commitments over the next three years to the QAS include \$35.9 million to recruit at least 240 extra paramedics; \$28.6 million for 22 new or refurbished ambulance stations; and \$29.5 million for 200 new or refurbished ambulance vehicles.