

Question on Notice No. 772, Friday, 18 June 2004.

Mr RICKUSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -

- (1) What is the total number of (a) Queensland Fire and Rescue Service vehicles and (b) Rural Fire Service vehicles that are currently in operation?
- (2) For those listed in (1), what is the average age of each fleet?
- (3) For those listed in (1), what is the number of vehicles that are currently over (a) 20 years of age and (b) 15 years of age?

Mr CUMMINS:

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) has embarked upon a seven-year plan to reduce the age of its fleet, and to develop fire appliances which will better serve the people of Queensland.

- (1) As at 28 June 2004, the QFRS has 454 active appliances in service, including aerial appliances. However, the FRS fleet includes other operational vehicles used for emergency responses especially in combined QFRS and QAS responses. Currently, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) has 875 appliances in service with rural brigades. The Beattie Government subsidises these vehicles, which ensures that brigades only pay 20% of the construction price.
- (2) The average age of QFRS appliances has been reduced to 7.9 years-of-age. As a result of the Government's ongoing commitment to the Veteran Vehicles Replacement program, the average age of RFS appliances is nine years.
- (3) The QFRS currently has a total of 57 appliances over 15-years and of this, 29 are over 20-years. The RFS currently has a total of 44 appliances over 15-years and 98 appliances are over 20-years. By December 2005 there should be no rural fire brigade vehicles older than 20 years of age remaining in the fleet, except in cases where a vehicle has a current road worthy certificate.

The Beattie Government is committed to providing the Queensland community with the most effective firefighting equipment available.

Rural fire volunteers will also benefit from the Budget with \$1.1 million also provided in 2004/05 (\$2.9 million over three years) for rural fire brigade training, communications networks and research for Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (Rural Operations). The funding would continue to address key issues arising from the Linton Coronial Inquiry in Victoria and the safety implications for volunteers.

In this year's budget, \$3.75 million is allocated for the delivery of 15 light response vehicles, 35 medium response vehicles and five tanker Cab/Chassis vehicles. In addition, it is anticipated that 20 firefighting trailers will be delivered to volunteer brigades.