

Question on Notice No. 809, asked Tuesday 17 August 2004

Mrs REILLY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -
With reference to some fire and ambulance vehicles which I've noticed that
now have blue lights –

What are the benefits of this initiative and will it be expanded to all
emergency vehicles?

Mr CUMMINS:

I would like to thank the Member for Mudgeeraba for her interest and
ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within her electorate.

Queensland's fire and ambulance vehicles will have a different look in the
coming months. Following consultation with the Queensland Police
Service, approval had been given to add blue flashing lights to operational
emergency vehicles.

Research undertaken by the Emergency Services in partnership with the
Police, has shown that the combination of red, blue and white (or clear)
lights is the best option for emergency vehicles, with higher visibility at all
times of the day and night. The new combination will apply to operational
ambulances, fire appliances and other response cars fitted with emergency
lighting.

The new configuration would be progressively fitted to vehicles across the
State in the coming weeks and months. The key concern here is about
safety for the public and safety for our emergency workers.

Other Australian states are installing, or already have installed, blue and
red flashing lights to the fire and ambulance vehicles.

Every day Queensland's fire officers and ambulance paramedics put
themselves in the line of danger – this new initiative is about improving
their safety.