

## **Question on Notice No. 822, Tuesday 17 August 2004**

**Mr HOOLIHAN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) - How will the new Rural Fire Advisory Council assist him and the State's 44,000 volunteer rural firefighters?

### **Mr CUMMINS:**

I thank the Member for his Question and would like to congratulate him on his ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within his electorate.

The newly appointed Rural Fire Advisory Council which met for the first time on 23 August is made up of members, who between them have hundreds of years of experience in rural fire, forestry, environmental protection, government and rural industry.

Members of the Council were chosen to include a good mix of locations and backgrounds to ensure wide-ranging input into rural fire issues affecting all Queenslanders.

The function of the Rural Fire Advisory Council is to provide me with advice about:

- Preparing for and responding to, fire in rural areas including the operation of rural fire brigades and the firefighting or fire prevention of emergency service units;
- Fire safety, fire prevention and the reduction of fire danger in rural areas;
- Using fire as a means of sustainable land management in rural areas;
- The extent to which the delivery of fire services in rural areas meets community needs; contributes to the achievement of the Government's desired outcomes for the community; meets the community's expectations about the use of fire as a means of hazard reduction and sustainable land management; impacts on the environment.
- Other matters referred by me, as the Minister.

The Chair of the new Rural Fire Advisory Council is Gold Coast based member Eda Beck who is also Chair of the Minister's Emergency Services Advisory Council.

Other members include several long-serving rural fire volunteers, current and former rural fire staff and representatives from bodies with a close working relationship with rural firefighters.

Throughout Queensland there are over 44,000 rural firefighters who provide an invaluable network of support to their local communities and the new Council will work with these volunteers to provide input to the direction of relevant issues into the future.

The Governor in Queensland approved the appointments to the Rural Fire Advisory Council on 8 July, 2004 for a period of three years from 9 July, 2004.

The appointments were notified in the Government Gazette on 9 July, 2004.

The new Council is:

Eda Beck, from the Gold Coast (Chair)

Woocoo Shire Mayor Kevin Mahoney;

Rural Fire Assistant Commissioner Dave Luxton;

Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland Representative, Dick Irwin;

Former long-service rural fire officer Bob Burke representing the Rural Fire Association;  
Ilikena Dabea, a rural fire and SES volunteer from Palm Island;  
Volunteer firefighter and workplace equity consultant Geraldine Neal from Rockhampton  
Canegrowers representative Tony Perna from Kuttabul, near Mackay;  
Katarina Keough, a rural fire volunteer from Greenvale, nominated by AGFORCE;  
Queensland Conservation Council representative Edward Fensom form Tanah Merah;  
Townsville-based SES volunteer and Senior Geographical Information Systems Officer Maxine Maguire; and  
Michael Harris who has more than 20 years experience in environmental protection and forestry.