

Question on Notice No 836. Wednesday 18 August 2004

Mrs CROFT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –
With reference to the Gold Coast where we have both the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association helping keep our waterways safe –

How is his department helping these organisations meet increased operational cost?

Mr CUMMINS:

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

The Department of Emergency Services (DES) and the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) in Queensland have further strengthened their ongoing partnership, with the signing of a renewed Service Agreement in August 2004. The Government is proud to deliver continued financial support for VMRAQ and AVCGA, ultimately benefiting all Queenslanders.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) are major partners in contributing to the Government's Safer Queensland, Smart State and Community engagement priorities. For that reason, the Department of Emergency Services is very proud to be continuing its financial support of these blue water associations with a renewed Service Agreement for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2007. Importantly, the renewed service agreement also delivers on the Government's Election Commitments. An additional \$300,000 over three years has been included in the agreement to assist Volunteer Marine Rescue squadrons and Coast Guard flotillas meet increased operational costs.

This three-year agreement specifies that the blue water associations will spend the allocated funding on agreed services such as search and rescue operations, provision of marine safety radio and communication services, medivacs, joint agency training, public awareness and education, training, equipment and materials. Funding of \$6,679,485 (Excluding GST) for the life of the agreement would support the operations of two state councils and 47 volunteer marine rescue bases throughout Queensland.