

Question on Notice No. 842, Wednesday, 18 August 2004

Mr WALLACE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) – Will he provide an update on the activities of the Queensland Rescue Helicopter Service over the past three months?

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 Queensland Government Helicopter Rescue Service, known as Queensland Rescue, is dedicated to looking after Queenslanders 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In times of disaster or emergency, the crews at Queensland Rescue's air bases located at Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns are available at short notice to provide this outstanding service.

For the period 1 May 2004 to 31 July 2004, Queensland Rescue undertook a total of 279 operational flights. These missions included 243 aeromedical flights, 31 Search and Rescue flights, four flights to support other State Government Departments and one flight to support Queensland Police Service operations.

In addition to operational flights, Queensland Rescue also undertakes considerable training flights and test flights to ensure the serviceability of the helicopters after maintenance. From 1 May 2004 to 31 July 2004, Queensland Rescue had undertaken 68 training flights to ensure that the skills of Queensland Rescue's pilots and crew were maintained at optimum levels. In addition, 35 flights were undertaken to check maintenance and ferry the aircraft to and from maintenance or between bases. A further 18 jobs were undertaken on miscellaneous tasks such as passenger safety briefs or public relations demonstrations.

I am proud of Queensland Rescue's reputation and have no doubt that it will continue to deliver its world-class aeromedical and air rescue helicopter services to the community.