

Question on Notice No 852. Wednesday 18 August 2004

Ms MOLLOY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –
With reference to Queensland's beaches which are a favourite of locals and visitors alike and our life savers who do very important work in keeping our beaches safe –

How is his department assisting Surf Life Saving Queensland?

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. This also gives me an opportunity to highlight the tremendous work and support you have for Surf Life Saving Queensland.

The Department of Emergency Services (DES) and Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) have further strengthened their ongoing partnership with the signing of a funding agreement in August 2004. The Government is proud of the agreement, which provides funding over a three year period for the provision of life saving equipment for the SLSQ Life Saving Support Services and Surf Life Saving Clubs. Surf Life Saving Queensland, which has 59 surf clubs and 6 branches across the State, is a major partner in contributing to the Government's Safer Queensland, Smart State and Community engagement priorities.

The Supplementary Funding Agreement is a new initiative for SLSQ as part of the Volunteer Support Package, and delivers on another one of our election commitments. The initiative provides an additional \$300,000 as capital funding to SLSQ for the purchase of equipment in 2004-07, and will benefit both the SLSQ Life Saving Support Services area and Surf Life Saving Clubs. The SLSQ Life Saving Support Services is responsible for operating several roving Rescue Water Craft (Jet Skis), Jet Rescue Boats, and the SLSQ Communications "SurfCom" Network.

The funds would be a significant boost to the ability of the organisation to provide safer beaches. The additional capital funding will be used to provide a range of resources including rescue, emergency care and communications equipment.