

Question on Notice No. 894, Thursday 19 August 2004

Mrs J CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins)–

Will he provide an outline of the emergency aeromedical services provided in Bundaberg and what future plans are in place for this service?

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 community of Bundaberg is supported by aeromedical services provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and the Department of Health provide funding to the RFDS to enable the Department of Emergency Services (DES) to continue to provide emergency response to meet the needs of Queensland's community.

On 12 June 2001, this Government approved the establishment of an ongoing aeromedical and air rescue helicopter service in Bundaberg for the Wide Bay/Burnett region, following a three year trial period.

This service is provided by the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service, a Government sponsored Community Helicopter Provider with bases at Bundaberg and Maroochydore.

A five year Service Agreement between the State Government and the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service is currently in place, effective from February 2002. This Government currently provides the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service with a minimum annual grant) to provide these services. The State Government is committed to the ongoing support for both the RFDS and the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service.