

**Question on Notice No. 982, Wednesday, 1 September 2004**

**Dr CLARK** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -

With reference to his recent handover of a new fire appliance in Cairns – How have vehicles such as this helped ensure Queensland continues to have world class emergency services across the State?

**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 efforts in securing this resource for the Cairns area.

On 20 August I handed over a specialised technical rescue fire truck worth almost \$900,000. The new technical rescue fire vehicle would be based at Cairns and will be able to service the whole region. It will significantly increase the response capacity of the Far Northern Region Special Operations Team and will provide them with all the necessary equipment needed to attend a wide range of emergency incidents.

The Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS) is constantly reviewing the risks posed to the community. It has designed and built a number of new fire appliances and rescue vehicles to enhance its ability to respond to those risks. The Technical Rescue Response Vehicle, enables the QFRS to respond to a range of emergencies. This one vehicle can provide the facilities to respond to swift water, technical rescue, vertical rescue and confined space rescue incidents. This vehicle was designed with significant input from local staff taking into consideration factors relative to Far North Queensland.

The QFRS is constantly re-evaluating the various risks to the people of Queensland, and will continue to develop appliances and purchase equipment to address these risks.