

**Question on Notice
No. 605
Asked on Tuesday, 10 May 2005**

MR WILSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR CUMMINS) -

QUESTION:

How will the Hills District benefit from the newly refurbished Arana Hills Fire Station?

ANSWER:

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

Arana Hills Fire Station was originally constructed to meet the needs of smaller staffing levels than those that now service this community. The change in the role of firefighters to support today's communities and the age of the existing station meant there was a need to upgrade the station.

The refurbished design has significantly improved the stations capability for staff by adding public access and reception, an enlarged administration area, storage areas for contaminated protective equipment, ventilation systems, study rooms, a larger storage capacity to protect firefighting equipment, a drying room, and a new training room that will ensure continuing education and maintenance of firefighter competencies.

The refurbishment of the Arana Hills station at a cost of \$460,000 has also allowed the storage and maintenance of equipment required for the increasing range of incidents involving fires, road accident rescues and hazardous materials that the QFRS now attends.

Refurbishment of the station includes access to the station by persons with disabilities.

The QFRS is committed to support all Queensland communities by providing a professional response to all incidents and maintaining sound operational readiness within the best available stations.