

**Question on Notice
No. 840
Asked on 26 May 2005**

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR CUMMINS)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Ambrose Rural Fire Brigade which had been promised a replacement vehicle to enable them to safely fulfil their volunteer duties and as they have advised me this vehicle has not been delivered—

When will these volunteers receive their vehicle to better ensure their safety when firefighting?

ANSWER:

The government recognises and values the commitment and dedication of the volunteer firefighters and will continue to make vital equipment available to our volunteers, who play an integral part in rural fire management in Queensland.

Ambrose Rural Fire Brigade is a Class 1 brigade, which is currently equipped with two mop-up units and a firefighting trailer.

A Class 1 brigade is defined where:

- the area is made up of predominantly rural producing land with possibly some low density rural residential development.
- the risk is mainly from bush and grass fires and land management based techniques predominate.
- a high level of utilisation of property based equipment for fire management is encouraged, as is decentralisation and widespread access to basic firefighting equipment.
- generally, effective structural firefighting is limited to the capability of individual property owners with a heavy emphasis on prevention and mitigation, and increasing self reliance in line with increasing remoteness”.

As a Class 1 brigade, Ambrose would not normally be supplied with a fire appliance.

Mount Larcom Rural Fire Brigade, which is approximately 6.5 kilometres from Ambrose, is equipped with a medium attack fire appliance as is Westowe Rural Fire Brigade, which is 20 minutes travel time from Ambrose. Both of these brigades are Class 2 brigades, with four-wheel drive fire appliances, including bush fire foam equipment.

Currently there are 19 rural fire brigades in the Calliope Shire who share seven medium and eight light attack appliances as well as 16 mop-up units and 10 firefighting trailers.

While this level of equipment is considered appropriate for the Shire, the Rural Fire Service is reviewing both the brigade structure and resourcing levels within the Shire to ensure that they meet the requirements of the risk profiles that currently exist.