

**Question on Notice
No. 904
Asked on Tuesday, 7 June 2005**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR CUMMINS) -

QUESTION:

Will he outline how the money raised by the Community Ambulance Cover is benefiting ambulance services and the community of Woodridge.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for the strong support she has shown not only towards the Queensland Ambulance Service, but to all sections of emergency services within her electorate.

This question gives me the opportunity to highlight the tremendous increases in funding that the Queensland Ambulance Service has received under the Beattie Government.

The Beattie Government's Community Ambulance Cover has delivered the Queensland Ambulance Service a solid and predictable funding base for the first time in its 112-year history. This allows the Queensland Ambulance Service to plan with confidence for the future, knowing that they have such a sound and predictable funding base, as well as providing all Queensland residents with ambulance cover Australia wide.

In addition to the Community Ambulance Cover, the Beattie Government's 2004 election commitments to the Queensland Ambulance Service includes \$35.9 million to recruit 240 extra paramedics, plus \$28.6 million for 22 new or refurbished ambulance stations and \$29.5 million for 200 new or refurbished ambulance vehicles. This will provide significant benefits to all Queensland residents including those who work or reside in the Woodridge Electorate. As part of this commitment, the State Budget for the 2005-06 financial year has committed \$7.9 million for replacement ambulance vehicles for the QAS.

Ambulance stations situated in Beenleigh, Logan West, Springwood and Woodridge service the Woodridge electorate. Combined, these ambulance stations provide 24-hour ambulance coverage to residents and visitors to the Woodridge Electorate.

The Community Ambulance Coverage enhancement package for the Woodridge Electorate includes an additional 16 paramedics and three new ambulance vehicles. The ambulance vehicles have been distributed between the ambulance stations servicing the area to assist in further reducing response times and introducing safer rostering procedures for our hard working paramedics. The new staff will further assist the QAS in maintaining and enhancing an already world-class ambulance service within the Woodridge Electorate and Queensland as a whole.

As the Member would no doubt agree, Queensland paramedics do a magnificent job protecting the lives of Queenslanders every day and it is important that the Government provides them with the best possible resources to do their job.