

Question on Notice
No. 1313
Asked on 31 October 2006

MR BOMBOLAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to my electorate which is truly grateful that the Government is in the process of fulfilling an election promise and providing a much needed ambulance station for Carina and as I realise the area is well serviced with mobile units at the moment-

When is work likely to commence on the project and will he provide a rough completion date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and congratulate him for the strong support he has given to the Queensland Ambulance Service within his electorate. It is refreshing to see such a supportive local member like the Member for Chatsworth who has been extremely hands-on with the Carina ambulance station project and has already met with the Queensland Ambulance Service about the progress of the station.

The Beattie Government is committed to making Queensland communities safer places to live and raise a family. This commitment is clearly evident within the Chatsworth electorate, which is already benefiting from an extra 16 paramedics on the road, attending to patients. These additional resources have been implemented to ensure that while the Carina ambulance station is being built, Chatsworth residents are receiving a world-class ambulance service.

The Carina paramedics are just some of the dozens of paramedics the Beattie Labor Government has put on the road around the state this financial year. The Beattie Labor Government has more than doubled the Emergency Services since taking office. The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) budget for 2006-07 is a record \$355.7 million. This record level of funding will help ensure the Queensland Ambulance Service continues to deliver first-class patient care to all Queenslanders.

This year the Queensland Ambulance Service budget will continue to strengthen operational service delivery by providing an additional 70 paramedics (as part of 240 over three years) and 35 communications officers to help address growth in demand and to further improve emergency response times around the state.

The budget also provides an extra 144 ambulance officers over two years starting with 102 officers in 2006-07 (in addition to 240 over three years). This will ensure we have a responsive workforce and improved working conditions for our valued ambulance staff.

This funding has resulted in ambulance response times improving as paramedics are getting to patients faster than ever before. Survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients have increased throughout the past five financial years.

Planning for the construction of the new station has already commenced and Practical Completion of the project is expected in July 2007. The completion of this new \$2.53 million state-of-the-art facility will ensure our ambulance service in the Carina / Carindale area can continue to act as the frontline for emergency response as demand grows.

The new ambulance station is an example of the Queensland Government's commitment to ensuring our ambulance service is well resourced to continue its great work. Our paramedics do amazing work, and it's no surprise that they were voted the most trusted profession in the country. They play a vital role in the community, and it's essential they have the best equipment, facilities and training possible.