

Question on Notice
No. 963
Asked on Tuesday 6 June 2006

Mrs SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to prisoners and staff from the Numinbah Correctional Centre who, I am advised, receive training as part of the Numinbah State Emergency Service (SES) unit- Are prisoners from the centre able to participate when the Numinbah SES actually response to emergencies on the Gold Coast such as during times of flood, bush fires and sever storms?

ANSWER:

The Numinbah Correctional Centre has a long history of providing assistance to the State Emergency Service (SES) wherever possible. Those prisoners who are currently approved for participation in community service leave of absence programs are able to assist as part of a request from the SES for emergencies in the Gold Coast area only.

The Department has rigorous assessment procedures and practices in place which ensure that only suitably assessed prisoners are eligible to participate in community service projects. Additionally each request for assistance is considered regarding the suitability of the work site location and activity to be undertaken. For example: the centre does not participate in those emergencies which involve searching for missing children or require attendance at crime scenes.

The most recent deployment of prisoners to assist the SES was a training exercise which involved the Numinbah Correctional Centre SES Unit. The exercise named Operation Bird Strike took place at The Gold Coast City Airport on Wednesday March 15th 2006. The exercise involved response from emergency services to a simulated Aircraft incident at the Airfield.

The Correctional Centre SES unit searched for survivors and transported injured passengers to a medical triage area at the scene, this exercise was in support of other Government Emergency Agencies which included Australian Federal Police, Protective Services, Queensland and New South Wales Police, also Queensland and New South Wales Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Crews.