

**Question on Notice  
No. 1796  
Asked on 1 November 2007**

MS DARLING asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) –

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of the training and equipment budget for the volunteers of the State Emergency Service?

ANSWER:

State Emergency Service volunteers are a highly regarded group who provide assistance and relief to the Queensland community in difficult times and circumstances and they deserve the best equipment and training the Department of Emergency Services can give them.

The State Government is continuing to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the State Emergency Service volunteers through the 2006 election commitment funding of \$17 million over five years to enhance volunteer management and equipment and \$14.3 million over five years to enhance volunteer training.

The funding acknowledges the many thousands of Queensland volunteers who selflessly devote their time to assist their local communities, and ensures that our volunteers are adequately resourced and able to respond to any emergency.

Funding of \$4.2 million out of the \$17million mentioned above, has been allocated this financial year to enhance volunteer equipment through the provision of:

- Kevlar helmets, light weight two-piece overalls, webbing belts and t-shirts to outfit volunteers;
- Other Personal Protective Equipment including wet/cool weather jackets and pants, floodboat and roof shoes, and an additional set of overalls;
- The enhancement of regional equipment stores for the stockpiling of tarpaulins, sandbags and other general equipment;
- Replacement floodboats and motors to benefit up to 19 SES Groups;
- Rescue Trailers to benefit up to ten SES Groups;
- Five hundred and forty four Safety at Heights Upgrade Kits benefiting all SES Groups;
- Ongoing replacement of vertical rescue equipment;
- General rescue equipment including generators, chainsaws, tarpaulins, rope and sandbags; and
- Replacement road accident rescue equipment to benefit up to four SES Groups.

In addition, \$1.8million has been provided this financial year to support:

- Local governments and community councils through ongoing annual local government grants for administration costs;
- Ongoing accommodation subsidies for new or upgraded facilities;
- Ongoing SES motor vehicle subsidies (including motor vehicle accessory subsidies, registration and insurance);and
- Allowances for volunteer executives.

Also this financial year, Emergency Management Queensland will provide over \$3.7million to continue its program of developing and delivering operational training to SES volunteers.

The funds have been allocated for:

- Training in safety during SES operations;
- Training in storm damage operations;
- Training in working safely on roofs;
- Training in temporary building repairs;
- Additional training officer positions located in Queensland regional centres;
- The conversion of existing non-accredited training to accredited training;
- The enhancement of training records management; and
- Additional curriculum development writers and the employment of temporary and casual volunteers to further boost the training delivery capacity. This will enable the Emergency Management Queensland Registered Training Organisation to deliver 1,000 courses per year to SES volunteers.

The equipment and training enhancements will ensure that SES volunteers can continue to play their vital role of keeping their communities safe and is confirmation of the Government's commitment to them.