

**Question on Notice  
No. 21  
Asked on 6 February 2007**

**MR MALONE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL)— Will he provide details of (a) broken down by brigade and item, the amount of subsidies Volunteer Rural Fire Service Brigades in Queensland have received over the past three years for the purchase of equipment and appliances including sheds, pumps, water tanks, vehicles and other ancillary equipment, (b) the corresponding co-contribution if any from the brigades, broken down by brigade and item, and (c) amounts and details of any other direct financial contributions or subsidies made to Rural Fire Service Brigades in the same period and any co-contributions from brigades, if any?

**ANSWER:**

In order to obtain the answers to the questions for a three year period, would require many hours of intensive labour and would be unduly onerous. This is primarily due to the fact that much of this data is not collated in one central location, and is maintained by the individual rural fire brigades across Queensland, which number more than 1,500.

In more general terms, this government continues to improve the funding of the Rural Fire Service as part of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service 2006/07 financial year budget includes a record \$21.5 million Rural Operations Budget. Of this 2006/07 budget, \$3.9 million has been allocated for the construction of rural fire appliances and fire trailers. Funding for rural fire appliances and trailers was \$3.8 million in 2005/06 and \$3.8 million in 2004/05.

The 2006/07 budget allocates \$150,000 for the construction of additional rural fire brigade stations. Funding for rural fire brigade stations was \$150,000 in 2005/06 and \$150,000 in 2004/05.

In excess of \$1 million has been spent each financial year since 2001 on providing, at no cost to brigades, personal protective equipment to each active volunteer, and no reasonable request has been refused.

Special initiative funding is also provided on an as required basis. This funding is a continuation of the government's commitment to rural Queensland. Of the total 2006/07 Rural Operations \$21.5 million budget, the anticipated revenue inflows funding is approximately \$2 million, which includes co-contributions made by rural fire brigades through the equipment subsidy scheme. Actual revenue inflow received was \$2.2 million in 2005/06 and \$2.5 million in 2004/05, both of which include co-contributions made by rural fire brigades through the equipment subsidy scheme.

In addition to the abovementioned funding, this government's election commitment funding provides: \$300,000 for radio equipment for each year over five years commencing in 2006/07; \$240,000 for repeaters for each year over five years commencing in 2006/07; and additional personal protective equipment funding of \$300,000 in 2006/07 and \$560,000 for each of the following four years commencing in 2007/08.