

Question on Notice
No. 624
Asked on 18 April 2007

Mr Bombolas asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

Will she provide details of the 'BrisbaneSecure' plan aimed at better preparing Brisbane's CBD in an emergency situation?

ANSWER:

The 'BrisbaneSecure' plan was officially launched on Monday, 16 April 2007 at South Brisbane. I attended the highly successful launch along with the Premier of Queensland, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Senior Executives from across all levels of Government and numerous community stakeholders.

'BrisbaneSecure' was developed to ensure a multi-agency crisis management response in the event of any significant emergency incident in the Brisbane Central Business District (CBD). BrisbaneSecure aligns with the Beattie Government's priority of 'Protecting our children and enhancing community safety' and builds on the Premier's action plan to safeguard our communities by enhancing integrated multi-agency responses to all types of significant emergencies in the Brisbane CBD.

The Queensland Police Service led development of 'BrisbaneSecure' providing a project team that, through an interagency planning committee, worked in collaboration with the Queensland Government Departments of: the Premier and Cabinet; Main Roads; Emergency Services; Communities; Queensland Transport; and Queensland Health. Close partnerships were also developed with the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Rail. Members of the community and other external groups, including major CBD business and residential complexes, have also played significant roles in the consultation process.

At the launch the 'BrisbaneSecure' official website www.police.qld.gov.au/BrisbaneSecure commenced operation. This website serves as an ongoing information hub for the community. The website contains easy to use links to address many facets of 'BrisbaneSecure' and also includes tools for individuals and business in preparing emergency plans.

'BrisbaneSecure' is simple, practical and accessible at the operational level. The focus is on crisis management in response to an incident and prior to implementation of long-term consequence management and recovery arrangements. 'BrisbaneSecure' assists the operational response during a significant emergency and is capable of activation with our existing State Disaster Management arrangements.

The importance of providing timely, clear and coordinated public information to maintain public confidence is a focus of 'BrisbaneSecure'. Under activation the public will also be advised of shelter and transport details.

A balance was struck between operational responsiveness and flexibility, taking into account the large scale effort that would be involved in evacuating the Brisbane CBD if this was required. In this case 'BrisbaneSecure' establishes the mechanism for state and local government decision-making along with public information and communications protocols to support public safety crisis management.

The final draft of 'BrisbaneSecure' was tested at City Hall on 24 October 2006 with over 100 participants. Wide praise was received on several key aspects of 'BrisbaneSecure', including its practicality and inter-agency coordination. To ensure the currency of 'BrisbaneSecure' there will be ongoing public education, maintenance, review and testing.

With the launch of 'BrisbaneSecure' the Government has a solid platform from which to act and all agencies will be working together to remove people from harm's way.