

**Question on Notice
No. 858
Asked on 6 June 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's world-class firefighters who deserve the best equipment – What Government funded improvements can the firefighters who protect the families in my electorate look forward to over the next financial year.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his Question and would like to congratulate him on his ongoing support for Emergency Services within his electorate.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service received a record budget of \$360.1 million in 2007-2008, an increase of \$36.1 million. \$18.2 million of this will provide twenty two new urban fire appliances and ten support vehicles as part of the state-wide urban vehicle replacement and upgrade program and thirty six appliances and five trailers as part of the rural appliance modernisation program. It will further enhance the ability of firefighters in the Ipswich area to provide essential emergency services.

The capabilities of the command rescue vehicle located at Ipswich will have a significant technological upgrade worth almost \$17,000.00 to enable officers to communicate more effectively with each other. It will also have mapping and other functions to provide more flexibility for the Incident Management Teams.

In addition to the enhancements to the command rescue vehicle, the region will also receive wireless, wide area network capable computer interfacing and voice over internet capacity which will allow the Incident Management Teams to locate the most suitable area for the management of any incidents. All regional laptop computers with wireless capability will also have the capacity to connect to the system when in range.

A new state-of-the-art Communications and State Emergency Operations Centre will further enable the effective management of large scale emergencies and disasters in Queensland.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will continue to improve the operational preparedness of firefighters across Queensland through world-class training and innovation. It will also be a major beneficiary of the \$22.3 million to be spent on the continued expansion of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island.