

Question on Notice
No. 1037
Asked on 6 June 2008

MR PHIL WEIGHTMAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently opened Birkdale Ambulance Station in the electorate of Cleveland - Will he outline to the people of the Cleveland Electorate how this new service will benefit the community and how it fits in with the wider state-wide strategy of this Government to improve ambulance services?

ANSWER:

I had the pleasure on May 22 to join you to officially open the new Birkdale Ambulance Station in 5-9 Napier Street, Birkdale. The \$1.3 million state-of-the-art facility has provided a significant enhancement in the ambulance coverage for Birkdale, Wellington Point, Ormiston, Birkdale and surrounding areas.

The new station is strategically placed within a network of ambulance stations in Brisbane's south-east – the others being Cleveland, Capalaba, Wynnum, Balmoral, Carina and Redland Bay. The operation of ambulance vehicles from these stations is coordinated in relation to the demand for service at any given time in order to achieve the best coverage and quickest response times.

Each ambulance vehicle has its own entrance and exit point at the station which achieves greater vehicle security and allows for a quicker response by all vehicles, and these features are complemented by proximity card security access and motorised roller doors and gates. Secure off-street parking is also provided for staff and visitors and the station was well equipped in preparation for the recent increase in staffing.

The station has received an increase of 20 ambulance officers with the introduction of a seven line support roster, from 9 June 2008. This will provide two additional crews to be rostered on at the station seven days per week. As a result, the station has increased its hours of operation by rostering emergency crews between 7am to 12midnight, seven days per week.

As demand for ambulance services increases, the Bligh Government has allocated an additional 250 ambulance officers, 145 new ambulance vehicles and will provide 2 new and 21 replacement, refurbished or redeveloped QAS facilities from the 2008/09 budget to boost the capacity of our ambulance officers to respond to the local community.