

**Question on Notice  
No. 1674  
Asked on Tuesday 11 November 2008**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the commemoration this week of National SES Week – Will he advise how the government is assisting our hard working SES volunteers?

**ANSWER:**

The Bligh Government values the State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers who selflessly devote time and energy to assist their local communities and has reiterated its commitment to support the attraction, recruitment, training and recognition of emergency services volunteers in the recent "Toward Q2" vision statement.

This has been evident in the response by our SES volunteers to the recent severe storm events in South East and Central Queensland.

Recognising the need to boost the equipment and training for the SES, the Government provided \$7.458 million in 2007-2008 as part of the 2006 Election Commitment "Safeguarding Cyclone Communities".

This funding provided for:

- \$1.185 million for upgrades to emergency communications equipment and for support staff.
- \$2.931 million for key equipment initiatives including personal protective equipment, vertical rescue equipment, rescue trailers, flood boats and
- \$3.342 million for improved volunteer training.

With a total SES Budget of \$12.464 million in 2008-2009, the Government continues to demonstrate its commitment to volunteers. The Department of Emergency Services will continue to support, train and resource its volunteers appropriately, to ensure their continued ability to provide excellent service to the community through the provision, in 2008-2009, of:

- \$3.347 million for key equipment initiatives including additional flood boats and rescue trailers, generators, chainsaws, tarpaulins, rope and sandbags and improved personal protective equipment.
- \$1.726 million to enhance regional technical and communication equipment.
- \$4.303 million to progress training initiatives.
- \$3.088 million to fund the ongoing support and management of the SES.

Volunteering helps build stronger, more connected and caring communities and the Bligh Government will ensure that Queensland SES volunteers continue to be well resourced and able to support the community.