

**Question on Notice
No. 1274
Asked on Wednesday 16 September 2009**

MR WATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR ROBERTS)—

Will the Minister provide an update on progress with the new Mitchelton Ambulance Station and advise of the expected benefits to residents in the electorate of Everton?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question, and for his continuing support, on behalf of his constituents, for the emergency services.

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring the people of Queensland have a modern sophisticated ambulance service. In the 2009-10 financial year budget, our Government provided the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) with a record operating budget of \$494.6 million, an increase on last year's budget of \$38.9 million or 8.5%.

Included in the budget is funding for 50 extra ambulance positions, taking to 550 the number of frontline staff funded in the past three years – the biggest increase in QAS history.

In this financial year's budget, \$19.3 million has been allocated to commence or complete work on two new ambulance stations at Ashgrove/The Gap and Springfield and for 18 replacement, or redeveloped QAS facilities including the replacement station at Mitchelton.

The Bligh Government has committed \$3.1 million for the construction of the replacement ambulance station at Mitchelton, with \$510,000 allocated in the 2008-2009 financial year and \$2.59 million budgeted for the 2009-2010 financial year to complete the project.

A Ministerial designation for the proposed development, including environmental and heritage studies, and other Government approvals was gazetted on 29 May 2009.

The design of the project was completed in the 2008-2009 financial year and the construction contract was awarded on 5 August 2009. It is planned to complete the project by the end of the 2009-2010 financial year.

The new ambulance station at Mitchelton will be able to house 10 emergency ambulance vehicles and four Patient Transport Service vehicles as well as accommodate up to 48 staff. It has office accommodation, rest areas, training facilities and garaging and will provide the QAS with a world class facility from which it will service the local and surrounding areas.

The Bligh Government will continue to resource the QAS to enable it to support our communities.