

**Question on Notice
No. 1602
Asked on 28 October 2009**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

What improvements have there been in Logan City to assist the SES in their valuable work?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question, and for her continuing interest in, and support of, our State Emergency Service.

The Bligh Government recognises the important role SES volunteers play in supporting their local communities and is committed to ensuring they have the support they need to undertake their duties.

In 2009-2010, the Bligh Government will contribute a total of \$14.068 million in direct funding to the SES. This includes: \$7.311 million as part of the "Safeguarding Cyclone Communities" 2006 election commitment, and an additional \$1.22 million in new initiative funding under the 2009 election commitment "Support Our Heroes". This initiative is a five year \$5.64 million commitment to the SES. The remaining \$5.537 million will fund the ongoing support and management of the SES through regions, area offices and head office.

Key initiatives for Emergency Management Queensland in the 2009-2010 financial year include:

- \$1.221 million from Election Commitment 2009 "Support Our Heroes" will be directed to strengthening the SES capability to respond to natural disasters through the provision of 20 vehicles, four floodboats and two rescue trailers;
- \$1.957 million from Election Commitment 2006 "Safeguarding Cyclone Communities" will be directed to the purchasing of five floodboats, four rescue trailers and the ongoing provision and upgrading of personal protective equipment; and
- \$3.297 million from Election Commitment 2006 "Safeguarding Cyclone Communities" will be directed to provide volunteers with the skills they need to perform emergency service functions safely and effectively.

The Bligh Government through its Toward Q2 Strategy has a target of a 50% increase in the proportion of Queenslanders volunteering set for 2020 and has also established a five year Volunteer Management Strategy to increase volunteer recruitment and improve retention.

Key elements of the strategy relating to the SES, and managed by Emergency Management Queensland include:

- developing and reviewing recruitment strategies;
- establishing and analysing functions with local government to assist in planning, management and service delivery of the SES;
- the enhancement of workplace health and safety;
- the development of a Volunteer Information Management System; and
- the creation of a network of SES community education officers and the investigation of cross accreditation with other volunteer organisations like Surf Lifesaving Queensland and the Rural Fire Service.

The Logan City SES recently received from Emergency Management Queensland a Stacer 489 Barra Pro floodboat with trailer fitted with a Suzuki 70HP motor, valued at approximately \$49,000. The boat provides volunteers with a greater capacity to respond to flood operations and water searches, rescue operations and emergency welfare operations which are operations undertaken by Logan City SES volunteers on a regular basis.

A second new floodboat has been identified for Logan City SES and will be delivered in the coming year, as part of \$5.64 million funding over five years under the 2009 election commitment 'Support Our Heroes'.

In the past three financial years, Emergency Management Queensland has provided Logan City SES members with approximately \$170,000 worth of personal protective equipment and approximately \$19,000 worth of general equipment, to ensure members are properly equipped to carry out their duties.

During this time, considerable enhancements have been made to the quality of personal protective equipment provided to SES volunteers, including the introduction of a lighter weight two-piece overall, superior quality general purpose safety boots and the replacement of plastic helmets with kevlar helmets. Additional items such as traffic management kits, polesaws and GPS units have also been introduced to the SES equipment range.

Emergency Management Queensland is also working with Logan City Council to appoint a new Local Controller to manage the operations of the Logan City SES. It is envisaged the successful applicant will be in position before the new year.

Ongoing guidance, supervision and training resources also continue to be provided to the Logan SES members to enhance their preparedness and capacity to respond to requests for assistance from their community.