

**Question on Notice
No. 512
Asked on 23 March 2010**

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the names and positions of all departmental officers who travelled to Theodore during the recent flood event and detail

- (a) when and why each officer travelled there
- (b) how long each officer stayed and
- (c) what each officer contributed to the flood response?

ANSWER:

Our emergency services staff and volunteers have been working non-stop since the beginning of the year responding to flooding and cyclone-related events across the State. The Premier and I witnessed first hand the tremendous efforts of emergency services personnel and many others, when we travelled to Charleville, Roma and St George to inspect damage caused by the record floods in the state's south-west. As the Member is well aware, I also visited Theodore last month to inspect the flood response and recovery work underway in that area.

The commitment and professionalism of our State Emergency Service (SES), Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), rural fire service volunteers, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and local council officers should be commended. They have worked in partnership with local disaster management groups and councils, helping communities prepare for flooding, and manage inundation and isolation in the response to a number of events this year.

I am advised by my Director-General that the deployment of Department of Community Safety (DCS) staff to Theodore was official duty and made on the basis of their training and expertise. It would be considered inappropriate for privacy reasons to provide the names and positions of staff as the Member has requested in this Question on Notice.

The DCS deployment to support the Queensland community of Theodore during the 2010 South West Queensland Floods was at the request of the Banana Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) which was formed on 6 March 2010 based at Biloela.

DCS officers travelled to Theodore, Moura and Baralaba to assist the LDMG and undertake preparations to ensure communications and equipment were secure, that contingency plans were in place in the event of inundation and that sufficient resources were available in the event that evacuations were required.

The 10 officers were a combination of regional staff and staff deployed to support the Theodore community over the period 5 to 18 March 2010. There

were five QFRS Swift Water Rescue officers; two Queensland QAS officers and three EMQ officers (including the Acting Chief Officer).

Four QFRS Swift Water Rescue officers were based in Biloela from 6-9 March. Another Swift Water Team member relieved an officer for a day during that time. One QAS officer was in Biloela on 5 March then relocated to Theodore. The other was based in Biloela from 11-18 March. One EMQ officer was on deployment from 5-12 March, another on 15 March 2010 and the Acting Chief Officer was in Theodore on 8 March.

The five QFRS Swift Water Rescue officers were deployed to Theodore as waters rose to assist with evacuations.

The Senior QAS officer provided the Theodore station with a generator and other stock in preparation for the anticipated floods before returning to Biloela to attend the Banana Shire Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) meeting as the QAS representative on the LDMG. The Advanced Care Paramedic was stationed at the Theodore Ambulance Station.

An EMQ officer assisted the Theodore SES Group with preparations and planning including regular reporting to the Local Disaster Management Group; assistance and advice to the local SES Group with tasking of requests and responses to requests; management and coordination of additional SES Groups that were deployed into Theodore to assist with the operation; welfare and fatigue management of volunteers; and management of resources utilised during the flooding event.

The other EMQ officer accompanied councillors from Banana Shire Council on inspections at Theodore and provided advice on recovery matters. The Acting Chief Officer EMQ met with Banana Shire Council representatives to make a strategic assessment of the consequences of the Dawson River flood and also met with members of the Local Disaster Management Group and key emergency services personnel.