

Question on Notice
No. 160
Asked on 9 March 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister explain why the number of front-line firefighters at Kitchener Street and Anzac Avenue is the same as 1974 when the population and area served was far smaller and the tasks and rescue services were far less?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In determining the appropriate number of firefighters allocated to a specific location, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) considers a number of factors including population, incident call data, hazardous risks and the availability of adjacent resources.

The QFRS Toowoomba Command currently has 14 Station Officers, 34 permanent firefighters and 72 Auxiliary firefighters.

The \$2.4 million Kitchener Street replacement fire station commenced operation on 23 September 2010 and operates 24/7 permanently staffed by four firefighters and two Station Officers on each shift.

The new station is directly supported by the 24/7 Anzac Avenue Station. It is permanently staffed by three firefighters and one Station Officer on each shift. Additional support is provided by an approved establishment of three Auxiliary Lieutenants and 14 Auxiliary firefighters.

Both of these permanently staffed stations in conjunction with a network of Auxiliary staffed stations provide service delivery to the city of Toowoomba and surrounding areas.

Despite changes in demographics, the number of incidents within the urban levy boundary in Toowoomba Command has remained consistent.

The QFRS operational response capability in all areas, not just Toowoomba, has improved over recent years. The improvement is a direct result of more effective fire appliances, additional equipment, increased focus on training and skill maintenance, implementation of a number of community education initiatives, building fire safety improvements and increased fire communications capability.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will continue to monitor the primary response figures for the Toowoomba Fire Stations and is committed to providing a safer Queensland.