

**Question on Notice
No. 307
Asked on Tuesday, 30th April 2013**

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

In relation to the QFRS coverage in Gladstone, will the Minister review the call-back crew police for Gladstone to ensure (a) proper coverage for Gladstone levy area residents when the on call crews are required outside the Gladstone city limits (b) that waiting for a SITREP from the scene where travel time is a factor be deemed unsafe given the potential for significant risk to the community and (c) that if this policy continues (non-call of back up crews), no fighter be held responsible for this lack of proper community protection?

ANSWER:

- (a) The Gladstone Regional Council area is serviced by one full time fire station and four Auxiliary fire stations. The stations are located in Gladstone, Calliope, Boyne Island, Miriam Vale and Agnes Water. Together they form the Gladstone Command with responsibility for responding to fires and emergencies across the area and providing support anywhere the resources are needed. The range of staffing options used, together with the geographic spread of the stations, provides coverage to the people of Gladstone.
- (b) The full time station in Gladstone is staffed 24 hours a day, including the response of a primary fire truck and the seven day a week response of a specialised fire truck. When these resources are committed at an incident, arrangements are made to provide alternative coverage based on a risk assessment and the availability of resources from Gladstone and surrounding areas. Senior Fire Officers make the decision to call back additional crews, or move Auxiliary crews into Gladstone, based on a number of factors. Waiting for a situation report (SITREP) from the scene of an incident is prudent to establish the need to call back or move crews.
- (c) Every Fire Officer has a responsibility to support the protection of the community in which they live and work through the proper application of the Department's policies and the professional performance of their duties. I am pleased to say that the Gladstone Fire Officers, as with all QFRS Fire Officers, are highly professional and diligent in the performance of their duties.