

**Question on Notice
No. 504
Asked on Tuesday 6th August 2013**

MR CHOAT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how the government is delivering for Ipswich and the surrounding communities with regards to community safety?

ANSWER:

QAS

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) West Moreton Local Ambulance Service Network (LASN) currently has nine stations servicing the Ipswich and surrounding communities. They are Ipswich, Redbank, Springfield, Boonah, Gatton, Laidley, Lowood, Rosewood and Toogoolawah stations.

The West Moreton LASN has eight Local Ambulance Committees which work with their local stations to provide liaison and support to the community. The LASN also has one First Responder Group operating in the Boonah community.

The West Moreton LASN has 136 frontline paramedic positions, including the Officers-in-Charge of each station; nine Patient Transport Officers; eight operational supervisors (comprising Clinical Support Officers, Senior Operations Supervisors and managers); and seven non-operational positions providing administrative support.

The West Moreton LASN has received five replacement vehicles since 5 November 2012 which includes three single stretcher Mercedes for Lowood, Redbank and Springfield stations, one twin stretcher Patient Transport Mercedes for Toogoolawah and one replacement Emergency Response Vehicle Subaru for Ipswich station. The West Moreton LASN has a total of 57 vehicles serving the local community.

QFRS

It is truly an exciting time for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services (QFRS) in the Ipswich area, with two new fire and rescue stations coming on line recently. The new Ripley Fire and Rescue Station commenced operations on 10 July 2013, and received its first emergency call only 34 minutes later. The new Brassall Fire and Rescue Station commenced operations on 6 August 2013, and received its first call within 90 minutes.

The Brassall Station is staffed by nineteen full time urban fire fighters and increases QFRS resources in the Ipswich area from 76 Officers at four stations, to 95 Officers at 5 stations.

The five permanently staffed stations are supported by auxiliary stations at Marburg and Rosewood, and nine Rural Fire Brigades, located at Flinders Peak, Grandchester, Lower Mount Walker, Marburg, Mount Forbes, Mount Mort, Mutdapilly, Pine Mountain and Ripley Valley.

EMQ

Ipswich, and its surrounding communities, are assisted during times of emergencies and disasters by the Ipswich State Emergency Service (SES) Unit which consists of four groups located at Ipswich, Goodna, Marburg and Rosewood. The Ipswich Unit has a current membership of approximately 230 volunteers who receive specialist training and equipment to respond to a variety of events including floods, storms and search and rescue.

The Local Disaster Management Group supports local government disaster management activities and is coordinated by the Queensland Police Service in conjunction with Emergency Management Queensland. Both the Local and the District Groups focus significant resources on developing community resilience within the Ipswich and surrounding communities through the provision of community engagement and education programs.

During August and September 2013, Emergency Management Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and Ipswich City Council are undertaking an assessment of both the Local Disaster Management Plan and the District Disaster Management Plan as a preparedness activity prior to the upcoming storm season.

In the 2012-13 financial year a total of \$68,670.06 was paid to Ipswich City Council in grant funding of which, \$50,336.12 was paid to projects relating to flood mitigation under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).

A total of \$18,333.94 was paid to Ipswich City Council for the SES Groups and Units and \$3,000 was paid for the purchase of a laptop computer under the SES Non-Recurrent Subsidy Program. A further \$15,333.94 was paid as part of the SES Recurrent Annual Local Government Subsidy to assist in defraying the costs incurred by the Council in running local SES Units and Groups as part of its disaster management program for the community.

Following recommendation 15.10 of the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry (QFCOI) Report, a new formula was developed for the distribution of payments to each local government. Ipswich City Council received \$11,533.94 more than in the previous financial year.

QCS

Ipswich Probation and Parole continue to provide a high level of supervision and management to offenders subject to orders of the courts and boards residing within the jurisdiction. This office supervises on average 920 offenders and also conducts fortnightly out reporting in the Gatton and Laidley areas.

Agency resources are targeted to the level of risk for a particular offender. Dependent on the level of services required and order type of a particular offender – assessments are completed which guide the individual supervision of the offender. Surveillance staff are also employed by the office to conduct random drug testing and home visits on weekends and public holidays. Should an offender be found to be non-compliant with the order conditions, contravention action is swiftly taken to address any risk to the community. This may range from conducting a disciplinary interviews with the individual through to returning the offender to custody if the order type permits.

The office also maintains strong working relationships with stakeholders and specialised intervention service providers within the local area who provide specialised counselling in areas such as anger management, Domestic Violence perpetrator and victim counselling, financial management, employment programs, gambling counselling and drug and alcohol counselling. The office also maintains strong links with Queensland Police Service to share intelligence information as well as to ensure parolees who are deemed to be too great a risk to the community are returned to custody as soon as possible.

The office also has 30 community service projects in a wide range of locations across the jurisdiction. Community service is provided to local not for profit or charitable organisations such as the Salvation Army as well as for local sporting groups and churches. During the 2012/13 financial year, offenders from within the Ipswich jurisdiction completed 15, 975 hours of unpaid community service which equates to \$351 540 worth of unpaid work back to the local community.

QPS

This Government has given a four year commitment to increasing police numbers by 1,100 officers, with a surge of 300 police in the first financial year. This increase will be over and above attrition.

As at 1 August 2013, the approved police strength of the Ipswich Police District was 407 officers which includes an additional 32 police positions out of the 2012-2013 growth allocations. These additional positions will be distributed throughout the district to general duties, criminal investigation and intelligence functions to ensure the district is providing quality policing services 24 hours a day.

Ipswich District police work in partnership with the community and other agencies to reduce crime and make Ipswich a safer place. Community Crime Forums are regularly held throughout the district. These forums focus on providing information to the community on topics such as home and property security, identity theft and internet safety. The forums also target any specific crime trends in the relevant area.

There are currently 14 Neighbourhood Watch areas within the Ipswich Police District which work in partnership with local police to deliver community safety and crime prevention advice through newsletters and regular meetings. Ipswich District police are committed to this program and have undertaken to host the Neighbourhood Watch State Rally at the Ipswich Civic Centre on 2 November 2013.

Other crime prevention projects being conducted within the Ipswich District include:

- the 'Under the Bonnet' personal and travel safety program;
- Operation Bounce Back, which involves the fitting of car engine immobilisers for free;
- the 'Rocky Horror Road Show', which is a harm minimisation project presented this year to approximately 1,000 year 12 students from across the district; and
- the 'Violence- It's Not Our Game' project, which has been launched and implemented through local sporting associations.

Police from across the District continue to be partners and participate in National Community Safety Campaigns including Fatality Free Friday, Day for Daniel, World Elder Abuse Prevention Day and Seniors Week.

In addition, local police are often called upon to deliver presentations or participate in community safety programs and initiatives. The Ipswich Police District aims to utilise all available resources for the delivery of crime prevention information to the community. District Crime Prevention officers and Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) regularly attend school and community events such as the Defence Welcome Day, Ipswich Show and Family Fun Day at Limestone Park as well as weekly radio and print media segments. These initiatives are well received by local government, businesses and community members.

Another important crime prevention initiative within the Ipswich area is the Ipswich MyPolice Blog, which was launched on 15 August 2013 at the Yamanto Police Complex. This blog provides police with the ability to rapidly inform the people of Ipswich of current crime issues.