

**Question on Notice
No. 531
Asked on 8 August 2013**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail how recommendations from the Malone Review are being implemented and how commitments made by the government will benefit Rural Fire Services in unique rural electorates such as Logan?

ANSWER:

There are five Rural Fire Brigades within the Logan electorate, at Greenbank, Jimboomba, Chambers Flat, Logan Village and Tamborine. These are all very active brigades who work closely with their urban and auxiliary counterparts with involvement in a range of emergency response activities and community education.

As you would be aware, *The Malone Review into Rural Fire Services in Queensland* was released in April 2013. The report contains 91 recommendations regarding the structure, function, leadership and funding of rural fire services and paves the way for greater support for our hard working volunteer rural firefighters at the local level and better management of Queensland's fire risk.

While some of the recommendations of the Malone Review are being considered as part of the wider Keelty Review of Police and Emergency Services, work has commenced on those recommendations which have been approved for implementation.

From 1 July 2013, Rural Operations and the Rural Fire Service was collectively renamed Rural Fire Service Queensland and is to be led by a Deputy Commissioner.

“Operation Cool Burn” was also activated to assist in focusing staff and volunteers on the vital work of hazard mitigation and assisting landowners in reducing the risk of bushfire ahead of fire season. The 15 Volunteer Community Educators from brigades in the Logan electorate are making an important contribution to Operation Cool Burn by actively promoting bushfire preparedness and the ‘Prepare. Act. Survive’ campaign.

In addition to the above, a joint Working Group has been established which comprises both staff and volunteers from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Fire Service Queensland, and Emergency Management Queensland, including the State Emergency Service, to address the training recommendations.

Working groups have also been established to examine uniform and equipment issues for Rural Fire Service Queensland and the State Emergency Service, and to examine the integration of wildfire issues into the broader disaster management framework.

This government remains committed to strengthening RFSQ, its volunteers and brigades across Queensland and will continue to work towards that outcome.