

Question on Notice
No. 841
Asked on 20 November 2013

MR HOLSWICH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

How will accepted recommendations outlined in the Malone Review benefit rural fire brigades in and around the Pine Rivers Electorate, such as Dayboro, Samsonvale, Clear Mountain and Ocean View?

ANSWER:

As Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, I am determined to ensure that rural fire brigades have the best support available to allow volunteers, including the 325 volunteers in the six brigades in the Pine Rivers electorate, to perform their important work.

It is because of over a decade of Labor neglect in our emergency services that the Newman Government is committed to revitalising the rural and regional emergency services frontlines.

Earlier this year the Newman Government conducted a review into rural fire services in Queensland, led by the Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers, Mr Ted Malone MP. The Government has already begun implementing the review's recommendations.

We have established the Malone Working Group led by the Assistant Minister, and I have already approved many recommendations, including the following for implementation:

- Changing the name of the volunteer organisation to Rural Fire Service Queensland;
- Confirming that the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) will be led by a Deputy Commissioner;
- Fitting all RFSQ brigade trucks with red and blue flashing lights;
- Committing to fully fund slip on units and essential firefighting equipment and training needs, including protective clothing and communication equipment; and
- Committing to fully fund replacement appliances

The recommendations that have been agreed to are aimed firmly at cutting red tape and bureaucracy forced on rural fire volunteers by Labor.

It is also about providing further direct support to brigades and volunteers, particularly the Newman Government fully funding RFSQ brigade trucks, which under Labor required brigades to contribute up to \$20,000. This financial burden has been lifted and will benefit several of the 17 appliances in the Pine Rivers electorate are due for replacement in coming years.