

**Question on Notice
No. 854
Asked on 20th November 2013**

MR BERRY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the government's investments in police, fire and emergency services in the electorate of Ipswich?

ANSWER:

The Newman Government is committed to revitalising frontline services for families by enhancing emergency services across Queensland.

During the election the Newman Government committed to funding and recruiting an additional 1,100 police officers over and above attrition over the first four years of government. Already, almost 500 officers have been funded and delivered across Queensland making streets and communities safer.

As at 1 November 2013, the Ipswich District has an actual headcount of 433 which represents an increase of 27 officers to the area since the 2012 election.

The enhancement of emergency services includes the delivery of two brand new stations, additional firefighters and new fire and rescue equipment to the Ipswich area.

The former Labor Government failed to properly deliver frontline services and oversaw more than 20 years of neglect to vital emergency services. The former Government created layers of bureaucracy and mountains of paperwork for Queensland's hardworking firefighters and police officers.

The Newman Government is working to refocus Queensland's emergency services and revitalise service delivery in Ipswich. That process has begun with the delivery of two fire stations at Ripley and Brassall in Ipswich.

The new Ripley Queensland Fire and Rescue Station cost a total of \$5.6 million and includes an Area Command, Zone Command, and Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) office. It began operations on 10 July 2013 and received its first emergency call only 34 minutes later.

The new Brassall Queensland Fire and Rescue Station, was built at a cost of \$3.235 million and is now the newest Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facility in Queensland. Operations from the new station commenced on 6 August 2013, with the first call coming within 90 minutes of operation.

Both stations have also received two new Scania Type 3 Urban fire appliances valued at a total cost of \$1.37 million. These vehicles will provide a valuable fire fighting response to all Ipswich residents, and provide our firefighters with first class equipment.

Resources have not only been delivered through dedicated investments in infrastructure and equipment, but also in staffing. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) firefighter numbers in the Ipswich area have increased from 95 officers at four stations, to 114 officers at 5 stations.

The Ipswich electorate is serviced by the Ripley Valley Rural Fire Brigade who will be the beneficiaries of the Newman Government's decision to fully fund essential firefighting equipment for Queensland's rural brigades. This investment includes fully funding RFSQ appliances which, under the former Labor Government, required brigades to contribute up to \$20,000.

Queensland has experienced a decade of natural disasters, and Ipswich has been the site of serious flooding. The Newman Government is committed to investing in frontline emergency services to enable better responses when people are in need. The Ipswich State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has been provided with five operational floodboats by the Government to assist with responses locally.

The Government has also provided support to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience messaging by providing \$14,000 in funding to the Ipswich City Council to promote the Get Ready Queensland campaign.