

Question on Notice
No. 13
Asked on 11 February 2014

MR KNUTH asked The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services -
(MR DEMPSEY)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister consider reviewing the circumstances of the Urban Fire Service in Charters Towers where the current roster of 5 days/8 hour plus auxiliary is contrary to the 7 days/11 hour plus auxiliary, implemented in other comparable townships in the northern region, including Ingham, Ayr and Bowen?

ANSWER:

The Newman Government inherited an emergency services system in Queensland which was based on borrowing to cover costs, and chronic underinvestment.

That is why at the election, we committed to revitalising frontline services for families from Cooktown to Coolangatta.

Already, the Government has announced more stations across Queensland including Ingham, Pomona, Brassall and Ripley and additional new urban and rural fire trucks to support operations across the state.

As Minister, I work closely with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to ensure that services meets the various needs of communities across Queensland.

I am advised that Charters Towers Fire and Rescue Station currently operate a roster of urban crew for 8 hours between Monday to Friday with 19 auxiliary firefighters providing additional support. The QFES Commissioner has advised that the agency will continue to monitor fire services in the area, and make adjustments to service delivery to ensure each community is well supported as required.