

Question on Notice

No. 1437

Asked on 18 October 2018

MR C WHITING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on the rollout of the Palaszczuk Government's initiative to enable the 'on boarding' of the State Emergency Service to the existing Government Wireless Network, and how it will benefit the residents in the electorate of Bancroft?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The State Emergency State (SES) Government Wireless Network (GWN) On-boarding project is a critical component to enhance communications during an emergency, therefore crucial in helping the SES keep the community safe.

It is expected that SES personnel in South East Queensland, from the border of New South Wales, out to Toowoomba and north to Gympie, will transition to the GWN in a phased manner over the next two years. This includes SES within the electorate of Bancroft.

On-boarding SES to the existing GWN will benefit the residents in the electorate of Bancroft in the following ways:

- Firefighters, police and paramedics are already using the GWN—a secure digital communication network that allows multiple agencies to operate on a single channel;
- On-boarding the SES to the same network will streamline critical inter-agency communication between public safety agencies in Queensland, which will benefit residents by providing a timely, coordinated and appropriate response to events;
- GWN radios will address existing issues with SES radios such as high equipment failure rates, analogue radio system congestion, and coverage blackspots within South East Queensland;
- GWN has improved radio coverage by 132% above the existing SES network; and will improve timeliness and effectiveness of communications from the incident ground;
- On-boarding to the GWN will enhance the ability of the SES to respond in the increasingly complex and rapidly evolving landscape of emergency and disaster management, by providing them with modern communications technology.

This substantial investment by the Palaszczuk Government demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our dedicated SES volunteers have the support they need to continue helping their fellow Queenslanders.