

Question on Notice
No. 1510
Asked on 30 October 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to growth within the Livingstone Shire Council and in particular the Yeppoon region—

Will the Minister advise (a) why the Yeppoon fire station is still only manned from 9:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays when similar sized regions like Atherton are manned seven days a week and (b) the criteria required to ensure fire stations like Yeppoon are manned seven days a week?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that Yeppoon Fire and Rescue Station is a composite station with a staffing establishment of 16 auxiliary firefighters made up of one Captain, three Lieutenants and 12 firefighters. The Yeppoon Fire and Rescue Station is currently four firefighters over-establishment, giving a total auxiliary crew of 20.

The auxiliary firefighter crewing system is a part-time on-call arrangement which provides a 24/7 response to the community.

To complement this crewing arrangement, the station also has a permanent staff establishment of one Station Officer and three permanent firefighters working from 9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The Yeppoon Fire and Rescue Station has two urban pumper firefighting units as their normal resource allocation for this station.

When more significant incidents are reported in the Yeppoon area, the Fire Communications Centre will respond supporting fire appliances from the Emu Park, North Rockhampton and/or Rockhampton Fire and Rescue Stations.

The Yeppoon area is also well supported by several well-resourced and experienced rural fire brigades.

Statistics relating to the number of incidents the Yeppoon station responded to indicate that only 41 out of 281 responses, equating to 14.5%, occurred outside of the permanent day crew operating hours in financial year 2017-18. Further statistics indicate that the Yeppoon station is activated less than once per day.

Financial year	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
No of incidents	300	293	268	281

Having said this, I do acknowledge the growth in Yeppoon, noting the demographic is largely based in tourism, hospitality and agriculture.

Due to the vast array of communities with their unique environments, risks and needs, a blanket set of criteria for determining service delivery is an ill-advised approach to servicing the specific needs of Queensland communities. Contrary, QFES has undertaken a body of research, named the Integrated Service Determination Model, which is a place-based approach, in consultation with the community, to determine local community's capability requirements. This approach focuses on working with communities, applying a systems approach that is evidence based to analyse and research emerging trends, policy and practise. The QFES service is co-designed locally to be innovative, based on continuous learning and be adaptable to community capacity and needs sustainable for change.

I am further advised that QFES will continue to review the service delivery at Yeppoon and the greater Yeppoon / Rockhampton area, this includes the natural growth potential to ensure the resource matches the identified risks and the needs of the community are met.