

Question on Notice
No. 1759
Asked on 15 November 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the total number of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services FTE employees, from 2013-14 to 2018-19 (reported separately by year, including breakdown of front-line and non-front-line FTEs)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the workforce comprises of paid employees in the Fire and Rescue Service and Emergency Management as well as both paid employees and volunteers in the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

In addition to firefighting personnel, QFES has a diverse range of roles across numerous disciplines including emergency management experts, scientists, building fire safety engineers, and communication officers through to back office personnel in finance, budgeting, staff welfare and building design.

As at 31 October 2018, the QFES workforce was made up of:

Category	Headcount
Firefighting	4,448
Communications	148
Volunteer Operations	61
Operational, Volunteer, Business & Corporate Support	672
SES Volunteer	7,026
RFS Volunteer	35,135
Other Volunteer	26
Total	47,516

The breakdown of QFES paid full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by year since 2013-14 is as follows:

2018-19 (as at 31 October 2018)

Frontline FTE *	2766.87
Frontline Enabler FTE	499.33

* Auxiliary staff are 0.1 of an FTE

2017-18

Frontline FTE	2759.33
Frontline Enabler FTE	474.29

2016-17

Frontline FTE	2788.73
Frontline Enabler FTE	444.4

2015-16

Frontline FTE	2794.61
Frontline-Enabler FTE	329.10

2014-15

Frontline FTE	2739.96
Frontline Enabler FTE	304.26

2013-14

Frontline FTE	2663.43
Frontline Enabler FTE	280.03

The following table provides a breakdown of the QFES workforce profile:

Workforce Profile	Description
Frontline	Staff that directly deliver QFES services to communities, including firefighting, emergency management, communications, risk mitigation, etc.
Frontline Enabler	Staff that contribute to frontline service delivery via provision of operational, volunteer, business and corporate support functions. Noting that a significant number of these staff adopt a frontline role in the event of a heightened activation.

It should be noted that the above figures differ from published figures, including the Report on Government Services, to reflect QFES' contemporary service delivery methodology where non-firefighting staff engage in roles that directly contribute to Preparedness, Planning, Response and Recovery activities for Queensland communities.

I am advised by QFES that the increase in frontline enabler FTEs is primarily due to Machinery of Government changes which resulted in the transition of staff from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) to QFES. As a result of the Review of the PSBA, a total of 146 staff transitioned from the PSBA to QFES in 2016-2017.

In addition, QFES has been undergoing significant capability re-alignment since 2013-14 which has resulted in an increase in specialist operational support and corporate services personnel. Some of the roles being captured in this re-alignment include Area Controllers, Operational Capability Officers, Communications Officers and State Operational

Coordination Centre staff. This re-alignment ensures that QFES continues to meet the needs and expectations of the Queensland community.

The value of this realignment can be seen by QFES' ability to respond to the most devastating wild fires Queensland has ever experienced followed by Tropical Cyclone Owen. This is further demonstrated through the QFES response to Tropical Cyclones Nora and Iris whilst meeting all necessary requirements for the Commonwealth Games.