

Question on Notice
No. 793
Asked on 14 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) groups which provide essential services to our community—

Will the government support (a) VMR in Queensland in the same manner that the Western Australian State Government has supported their groups and (b) VMR Hervey Bay in its request to replace its ageing vessel?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question and I would like to recognise the selflessness, professionalism, dedication and commitment of all volunteers who provide essential services to ensure the safety of Queenslanders.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the Queensland Government provides financial support to the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland (VMRAQ) through a Service Agreement administered by QFES.

In response to the Member's questions:

- a) The funding directed to the VMRAQ by QFES is negotiated every three years and the current agreement is from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

Negotiations for a new three-year agreement will commence shortly and will consider future funding of the VMRAQ and how QFES, the VMRAQ and other emergency services organisations can work more closely to deliver maximum capability and capacity against risks in local communities.

- b) The financial support is provided by the Queensland Government through QFES however the management and distribution of that funding, and prioritisation of replacing vessels, is determined by the VMRAQ.

QFES will continue its collaboration with the VMRAQ to ensure all its squadrons have the appropriate resources to deliver capability against risks in their local communities.