

Question on Notice
No. 1754
Asked on 23 October 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to construction of a new 24 hour Fire Station in the Sippy Downs area to ensure Sunshine Coast residents are protected in light of increased fire risk and significant population growth on the Sunshine Coast?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the 2019-20 budget includes a record \$44 million for capital projects, for either upgrading existing stations or constructing new purpose built, state of the art facilities.

The Sunshine Coast area is well serviced by Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) crews from 13 stations, including 24/7 permanently staffed stations at Noosa, Caloundra, Nambour and Maroochydore, and auxiliary stations in Coolum, Kawana, Buderim, Beerwah, Mooloolah, Maleny, Kenilworth, Pomona and Cooroy.

These FRS crews undertake joint operations with 35 volunteer Rural Fire Brigades comprising approximately 1,200 volunteers, 83 fire appliances, 15 slip-on units, 11 Operational Support Units and three Operational Command Vehicles. In addition, 12 State Emergency Service (SES) Groups from the Sunshine Coast and Noosa SES Units also provide complementary assistance when required.

QFES has a long-established standard of responding to 90 per cent of structure fires in levy district boundaries within 14 minutes. QFES response times to structure fires in 2018-19 was 12.6 minutes, continuing our excellent response record. For North Coast Region, which incorporates the Sunshine Coast area, response times to structure fires in 2018-19 was 12.9 minutes. I am advised that QFES reviews incident response data and uses this to ensure it continues to provide Queenslanders with a first-class fire and emergency service response.

The Sippy Downs Fire and Rescue Station has been identified as part of the QFES Forward Capital works program.