Question on Notice

No. 845

Asked on 18 August 2022

MS S BOLTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)

QUESTION:

With reference to the response by the QFES Commissioner in the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Estimates hearings regarding funding for maritime rescue services—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the \$3m expenditure to frontline units of VMR and the Coast Guard (separate from Vessel Replacement Program) and confirm whether the \$10,000 funding to Coastguards mentioned is in addition to the annual funding provided prior the Blue Water Review implementations?

ANSWER:

This government has committed an additional \$8 million for marine rescue services in 2022-23, to support operational capability, which is inclusive of \$5 million to accelerate the rescue vessel replacement program.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the remaining \$3 million in funding will provide an uplift for operational support provided through Service Agreements as well as the \$10,000 direct support grants to the 47 flotillas and squadrons, totalling \$470,000.

Additionally, I am advised that this funding will be directed to accelerate the work of the Marine Rescue Implementation Program, as it works towards the establishment of Marine Rescue Queensland. I am advised that the exact allocation of this funding is an operational decision for the Commissioner QFES and the team of experts working on the implementation.

This work includes, but is not limited to, the development of a standardised marine rescue training framework, assessments of facilities and infrastructure and the review and development of information technology systems.

I am advised that the boost to funding is <u>in addition</u> to the ongoing funding provided through Service Agreements, which will exceed \$4.4 million this financial year.