

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1100**

**Asked on 28 November 2024**

**MR R KATTER** ASKED MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS (HON A LEAHY)—  
QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what changes will be made to department policies to ensure that volunteers who provide vital support and offer the use of privately owned equipment, such as critically relied on piston engine helicopters, for fire fighting in remote areas can be fairly compensated?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question and advocacy on the issue.

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) acknowledges the vital contribution of more than 27,000 Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) volunteer members across the state. In times of need, this contribution often extends to members of the community who provide support and assistance to their local brigade.

Community members and primary producers may be eligible to claim reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred during a significant fire event, for identified costs. This could include fuelling firefighting appliances, feeding or accommodating firefighters or supporting the management of fire activity on land which they are not the legal landholder or occupier (including water replenishment of dams accessed by firefighting aircraft).

In regards to aircraft, I am advised that QFD adheres to National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) guidelines which require aircraft operators to meet national standards. These standards are designed to mitigate safety risks which include aircraft type, maintenance and pilot qualifications and experience. This provides assurance to QFD that pilots are well experienced and hold the appropriate licences, and that contracted aircraft are maintained and airworthy. Any changes to NAFC standards are outside the remit of QFD.

The NAFC standards and guidelines reflect national advice and best practice, however our Government will continue to examine alternate options and work with Queensland Members of Parliament to ensure our rural communities are appropriately supported.