

Question on Notice
No. 1217
Asked on 11 December 2024

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON D PURDIE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the *Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024* which was established this year to amalgamate all Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue units into one new organisation called Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ)—

Will the Minister advise (a) the progress of the amalgamation, (b) how and at what level will the new entity MSQ be funded and (c) if the MSQ model has been based on the successful Marine Rescue NSW model implemented in NSW in 2009?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as follows:

- a) With the establishment of MRQ a full schedule has been prepared to transition the 46 Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCGA) units to the new MRQ. I am also advised a detailed schedule to invite, prepare, assess, and transition each individual unit to MRQ has been prepared. That said, currently seven (7) existing VMR units (i.e., Mackay, Gladstone, Currumbin, Victoria Point, Jacobs Well, Hervey Bay and Port Douglas) have been fully transitioned and are now MRQ units. I am further advised negotiations are progressing with the AVCGA National Board to establish a suitable legal framework on how to allow assets from their units in Queensland to be transferred to MRQ. a detailed overall transition schedule for all units is expected to be completed before the end of 2025.
- b) MRQ has been provided with recurrent annual Government funding of \$27M from the 2024/25 financial year. This includes funding for all new MRQ workforce along with recurrent operating and capital costs for units. This is supplemented by additional government funding such as, more than \$22M for the Vessel Replacement Program.
- c) A wide range of advice was sought before committing to a model for MRQ in Queensland. This included the Blue Water Review conducted by Campbell Darby DSC AM in 2018, which included a review of arrangements for similar models which has been put in place in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia.

Learnings across a wide range of areas from all three models were considered and included in the recommendations made as part of the report. A Marine Rescue Implementation Program was formed to lead the establishment of the new MRQ as recommended from that review. This program is now the responsibility of the newly appointed Chief Officer for MRQ within the Disaster and Emergency Management portfolio in the Queensland Police Service. This work continues to transition all remaining units to MRQ to ensure the highest level of marine rescue services is provided to the boating community of Queensland.