

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 393**  
**Asked on 16 April 2024**

**MR S ANDREW** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND DISASTER RECOVERY AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON N BOYD)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to fire services across rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland—

Will the Minister advise (a) average response time for QFES red trucks, including call-taking time, for the last three years, (b) average response time for Queensland's Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade service across same period, (c) average response time for QFES, to all fires within the Mirani Electorate over the last three years, (d) how many Queensland Rural Fire Brigade volunteers are there currently and (e) how many people have left the RFB Service over the past three years?

**ANSWER: [MINISTER FOR FIRE AND DISASTER RECOVERY AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON N BOYD)]**

I am advised that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) only provides response times to structure fires, not other incidents.

This reporting is based on national standards and are available publicly through annual Reporting on Government Services (ROGs) as times within the 90th and 50th percentile.

These response times are measured from either alarm time, or incident verification time, to the time of arrival of the first attending appliance at the incident.

Only structure fires occurring within the Levy District Boundaries (Class A-D) are included. Excluded are non-emergency calls and those where the delays were experienced outside of their control such as a traffic incident or in instances where they were not the first responder to the incident.

I am advised by QFES that:

- a) In 2021-22, the response times to structure fires was 12.9 minutes at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and 8.3 minutes at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile; in 2022-23, the response times for structure fires was 12.5 minutes at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and 8.2 minutes at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile; in 2023-24 (as at 21 April 2024) the response times for structure fires are 12.7 minutes at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and 8.3 minutes at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- b) For the period of 1 July 2021 to 21 April 2024, there was one structure fire that met the response times criteria where the Rural Fire Service (RFS) was the first attending appliance. QFES advises they require at least 10 incidents for a statistically valid data set to accurately report on response times.
- c) Due to the low number of structure fires within the Mirani Electorate, QFES has advised they do not have statistically valid data set to accurately report an annual

breakdown on response times. QFES has been able to provide a three-year aggregate for the Mirani Electorate with 23 structure fires meeting the response times criteria from 1 July 2021 to 21 April 2024. The aggregate response time was 15.2 minutes at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and 10.5 minutes at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

- d) There are approximately 27,200 RFS volunteer memberships (as at 21 April 2024).
- e) The RFS has undertaken significant work on the accuracy of the volunteer membership data. RFS membership numbers fluctuate based on many factors including retirements, work patterns, family situations and competing pressures for time in volunteer's lives. Current data has seen a reduction of 3,605 RFS volunteer memberships from 1 July 2021 to 21 April 2024. For the same period, there have been 4,294 new members join the RFS.