

**Question on Notice**

**No. 637**

**Asked on 22 May 2024**

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

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise (a) if there are plans for the Bundaberg RFB Area Office to take on responsibility for an additional 45 Rural Brigades in the North Burnett from 1 July 2024 and (b) if so, how many paid Area Office Support Staff will be added to the Bundaberg region to appropriately manage this increase in workload and support needed by the brigades?

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

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that from the 1 July 2024, the management of 45 Rural Fire Brigades (RFBs), previously supported by the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) Burnett Area Office, will transition to the RFSQ's Bundaberg Area Office. This change is in alignment with QFES' transition to the Queensland Fire Department and restructure of the RFSQ.

The transitioning RFBs from North Burnett were previously managed by the RFSQ Bundaberg Area Office, however, in 2016 these RFBs transitioned to the newly established RFSQ Burnett Area Office, following a Queensland Government review.

QFES advises that to support this change, an additional staff member will join the RFSQ Bundaberg Area Office and a further eight new staff members will join the existing staff within the future Central Regional Office staffing model.

Importantly, five RFSQ staff will be introduced at the newly created District Office level, significantly enhancing the support provided to the Bundaberg Area Office and respective RFBs.