

Member for Maroochydhore Fiona Simpson, Member for Kawana Chris Cummins, Emergency Services Minister Pat Purcell and Senior Firefighter Bruce Shelton ride the new Bronto at Maroochydhore. Photo courtesy Sunshine Coast Daily.



Impressive addition to Coast fleet

It's the largest firefighting appliance in the fleet and when the massive Bronto Telescopic Ladder Platform was commissioned at Maroochydhore Station last month, it certainly turned heads.

Emergency Services Minister Pat Purcell and QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson unveiled the new addition to the Sunshine Coast fleet on February 10.

Commissioner Johnson said the appliance, worth \$1.4 million, was fitted with the latest technology in firefighting and rescue equipment. "The appliance is equipped with a 4000-litre-per-minute pump and has a working height of 42 metres. It can be used for rescue and as a water tower via the remote control monitor," Lee said.

The Sunshine Coast area continues to experience rapid population

growth. Maroochydhore Station responds to more than 1300 emergency calls each year and is now the busiest single-crew station in Queensland.

"With these factors in mind, this appliance, which is the first of its kind for the Sunshine Coast and surrounds, will make an excellent addition to the operational firefighting and rescue capacity of Sunshine Coast crews," he said.

FAQs outline recycled water issues

As reported in the previous edition of *Emergency*, the QFRS has entered into a consultancy agreement to conduct an occupational health risk assessment of the use of recycled water for firefighting purposes.

Stakeholders and firefighters across the State attended a three-day recycled water workshop at Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy last month, which included a practical demonstration to engage

consultants and stakeholders to the degree that firefighters are exposed to water.

QFRS A/Deputy Commissioner Ian Mitchell said the Recycled Water Steering Committee had developed a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for firefighters about the use of recycled water.

"The FAQs have been faxed to every fire station and can be located on the DES Portal by searching the QFRS Bookshelf," Ian said.

"I would encourage all firefighters

to read these FAQs and would also like to reiterate that no decisions have been made. We are examining all the risks and don't have the answers yet on whether recycled water is safe for firefighting.

"Presentation of the final report from the consultants is currently scheduled for late April 2006. A decision will be made when the findings are handed down subject to consultation with firefighters and stakeholders, including the United Firefighters Union."