

# State Budget 2008–09

Department of Emergency Services

## Agency Budget Highlights



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### Department of Emergency Services



### Message from the Minister

**The Queensland Government is investing a record \$940.8 million in emergency services in 2008-09 to strengthen the safety and security of communities and property across the State.**

With a \$93.3 million – or 11% – increase over last year’s budget, the Queensland Government is providing an unprecedented commitment to frontline emergency services, disaster mitigation and management.

The 2008-09 State Budget for the Department of Emergency Services (DES) will ensure the resources and expertise of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Emergency Management Queensland and volunteer emergency service organisations minimise the risk and impacts of accidents, emergencies and disasters.

Queensland’s emergency services have a proud record of achievement, but there are significant challenges ahead with strong growth in demand for ambulance services and severe impacts of fire, accidents and disasters, such as the widespread monsoonal rains and flooding this year.

2008-09 Budget highlights include:

- \$18.3 million to employ 250 additional ambulance officers;
- \$16.9 million for 145 new ambulance vehicles to modernise the fleet and provide extra vehicles for new ambulance officers;
- \$13.4 million for 30 new or replacement urban fire and rescue vehicles;
- \$6.6 million for additional emergency helicopter services staff, essential helicopter equipment and maintenance and regional disaster management staff; and
- temporary flood barriers for deployment to affected communities will be located in north and south-east Queensland.

In addition, the capital budget of \$160.6 million will allow DES to start or complete the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre, two new ambulance stations and 21 replacement, refurbished or redeveloped QAS facilities, three new fire stations and 11 replacement or redeveloped QFRS facilities, including improvements to the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

The Honourable Neil Roberts MP  
Minister for Emergency Services

The Queensland Ambulance Service is one of the largest ambulance services in the world. Demand for ambulance services is growing with the number of ambulance responses more than doubling over the last decade.

In 2008-09, QAS will have a record operating budget of \$455.7 million, representing a \$53.1 million increase over last year's budget.

#### 250 ambulance officers

In 2008-09, QAS will employ an additional 250 ambulance officers, with funding of \$18.3 million, as part of the Government's commitment to refocus on frontline emergency service delivery and to effectively and efficiently respond to growing demand for ambulance services.

These officers will be on top of the record 255 extra ambulance staff recruited this financial year (2007-08) with funding from the 2007 budget.

The 2008-09 Budget allocation includes the Government's commitment to implement recommendations of last year's Ambulance Audit including the recruitment of an extra 100 frontline ambulance officers.

#### 145 new ambulance vehicles

In 2008-09, QAS will buy 145 new ambulance vehicles with a budget of \$16.9 million. These new vehicles will be on top of the 140 new vehicles funded under last year's budget.

QAS has a fleet of more than 900 vehicles that travelled more than 25 million kilometres in 2006-07.

The commitment to buy new vehicles is part of QAS's fleet management program to replace older vehicles and purchase extra vehicles for additional ambulance officers.

#### New or improved ambulance stations

QAS provides ambulance services from more than 280 service locations across Queensland. In 2008-09, work will start or be completed on two new ambulance stations and 21 replacement, refurbished or redeveloped QAS facilities with funding of \$31.2 million.

The two new ambulance stations are at Ashgrove/The Gap and Springfield.

#### Ambulance Audit

Last year, the Queensland Government commissioned a wide-ranging audit of QAS and its allocation of record resources to meet growing demand for ambulance services. The Ambulance Audit found ambulance services in Queensland were funded at a higher rate than any other State. It also found Queenslanders called on ambulance services 30% more than the national average and demand for emergency response was increasing at six times the rate of population growth. The Government is implementing audit recommendations to refocus QAS on frontline emergency services, reduce spending on corporate and non-operational services, educate the public on appropriate use of Triple Zero and strategies to manage demand. QAS is on track to achieve a savings target of \$12.2 million from 1 July 2009. Savings will be used to employ 100 of the 250 additional ambulance officers to be recruited in 2008-09.

The replacement and redeveloped stations and centres for 2008-09 are: Townsville, Ipswich, Grovely/Mitchelton, Mount Morgan, Tamborine Mountain, Redcliffe, Yarrabah, Tully, Clermont, Murgon, Coolum Beach, Runaway Bay, Oakey, Julia Creek, Weipa, with refurbishments for stations at Burleigh Heads, Mitchell, Duaringa and Moura.

Replacement QAS training facilities at South Brisbane and Pimpama are also funded.

QAS has a budget of \$3.8 million for strategic land purchases and \$350,000 in 2008-09 for land purchase for future ambulance service planning at Bellbowrie.

A joint emergency services facility will be built on Palm Island.



Map of Queensland denoting sites for new and replacement/rebuilt stations/facilities for QAS and QFRS.

## Fire and Rescue Service

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) is a national leader in fire and accident response, management and mitigation. Call-outs for QFRS assistance has remained stable in recent years. The Service has the capacity to respond to fire, road accident, swift-water rescue and hazardous material incidents.

In 2008-09, QFRS will have a record operating budget of \$397.9 million, representing a \$37.7 million increase over last year's budget.

### 30 new and replacement urban fire & rescue vehicles

In 2008-09, QFRS will upgrade its fleet by purchasing 30 new and replacement urban fire and rescue appliances, making a total fleet of 486. 31 new appliances were funded in last year's budget.

### New or improved fire stations

QFRS has more than 230 urban fire and rescue stations across the State. In 2008-09, work will start or be completed on three new fire stations and 11 replacement or redeveloped QFRS facilities with funding of \$20.9 million.

The three new fire stations are at Redland Bay, Burpengary and Nerang.

Stations will be built at Pullenvale and Kippa-Ring to replace existing stations at Kenmore and Redcliffe respectively.

The replacement and redeveloped stations and centres for 2008-09 include QCSEA, Southport, Nambour and Woodridge, while replacement auxiliary fire and rescue stations are at Goondiwindi, Bollon, Tin Can Bay, Malanda and Yungaburra.



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Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) plays a vital role preparing and assisting Queensland communities for natural and other disasters through disaster management, volunteer emergency service workers, emergency helicopter rescue and chemical hazard management.

In 2008-09, EMQ will have an increased operating budget of \$87.2 million.

#### Emergency Rescue helicopters

In 2008-09, \$3.9 million will be provided for essential helicopter equipment, including infrared cameras.

In addition, \$2.7 million has been provided for a major overhaul of one of the existing Bell 412 helicopters, employment of five helicopter safety staff as well as for leasing costs at Townsville hangar and regional disaster management staff. Funding is provided for night-vision goggles and neonatal equipment for the new AgustaWestland (AW) 139 helicopters.

Later this year, a new AW139 helicopter will be operational from Cairns with AW139 helicopters operational from Archerfield (Brisbane) and Townsville in 2007–08. The Government committed \$48.7 million over three years for the three new helicopters with \$2.6 million allocated for 2008-09 to complete this project.

#### Queensland Emergency Organisations Centre

In 2008-09, \$40.1 million has been allocated for the ongoing development of the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) in Brisbane, including \$29.3 million in capital. When complete, the \$76.1 million QEOC will be an integrated communications and emergency operations centre designed to more effectively manage response to large-scale emergencies and disasters as well as further support the Department's counter terrorism capability.

#### Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy

The \$20 million redevelopment of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island, Lytton (Brisbane) will be finalised in 2008-09 with the final instalment of \$1.3 million. The redevelopment includes a practical training facility and scenario streetscape with a major upgrade of urban search and rescue facilities and live fire simulations.



#### Counter Terrorism

In 2008-09, Department of Emergency Services has funding of \$3.9 million to enhance its capacity and capability to respond to chemical, biological and radiological incendiary explosives incidents with the creation of an emergency strike team based at the Special Operations Complex, Cannon Hill and Tingalpa and training for first responders.

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## Agency Budget Highlights

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#### Supporting our volunteer emergency service workers

- \$5.4 million for additional training, equipment and support for State Emergency Service volunteers
- \$1.6 million for on-line training for State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service volunteers;
- \$1.6 million to assist Surf Life Saving Queensland to provide additional beach patrols and equipment through grants to clubs;
- \$850,000 to support additional trainers for Rural Fire Service volunteers;
- \$1.1 million for a second set of clothing for Rural Fire Service volunteers in high priority iZone brigades and for volunteers who register for deployments outside their region and improved communications equipment; and
- \$300,000 for Royal Life Saving Society Queensland to expand water safety campaigns to all primary school children.



Queensland  
Government

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