

Budget Highlights

Department of Emergency Services

Budget

04-05





Department of Emergency Services

Message from the Minister

In 2004-05, the Queensland Government is investing a record \$668.2 million to enhance delivery of emergency services and improve community safety throughout Queensland.



This is an increase of 7.7% on the 2003-04 Emergency Services Budget and continues the Government's commitment to ensuring Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities.

In the next 12 months, the Department of Emergency Services will continue to focus on reducing the level of risk and the impact of emergencies and disasters on communities. The department will develop and deliver innovative community safety, prevention and awareness programs in collaboration with a range of stakeholders across the government, community and business sectors.

Budget highlights include:

- \$5.6 million in 2004-05 (\$35.9 million over three years) for an additional 240 Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics over three years, to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services to rural and remote communities.
- \$1.1 million for rural fire brigade training, communications network and research.
- \$9.9 million for replacement ambulance vehicles as part of its vehicle replacement program.
- \$12 million for new or replacement urban fire vehicles as part of its fleet replacement program and to meet enhanced service delivery requirements, and \$3.8 million for rural fire brigade appliances and firefighting trailers.
- \$0.7 million to enhance community safety through the appointment of eight additional community fire safety officers.
- Enhancement of the Emergency Services Cadet Program through the establishment of five additional groups.
- Establishment of four new joint Emergency Service Units in remote and rural communities, including two Indigenous communities.
- \$1.8 million to strengthen disaster mitigation and management across the State.
- Enhancement of community capacity building programs, including \$0.6 million for community safety programs, \$0.4 million in ongoing support for CPR for Life, \$0.1 million to broaden the role of Neighbourhood Watch and \$0.3 million for community fire awareness.

The department is also continuing its ongoing support to volunteers through a further \$3.3 million for the enhanced Emergency Services Volunteer (SES) Support Package. The enhanced package increases the level of funding provided to SES volunteers for equipment, vehicles, training and support; to Surf Lifesaving Queensland and Volunteer Marine Rescue for equipment and other costs; and to rural firefighters for enhanced training, communications and information.

The department is also committed to improving services to Indigenous communities and individuals with the continuation of the DES Indigenous Service Delivery Enhancement Package announced in the 2002-03 Budget.

The Honourable Chris Cummins MP
Minister for Emergency Services

Safe and Secure Communities

This budget represents a significant commitment to ensuring that Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities. Safety and security, including community preparedness and prevention, counter terrorism preparedness and response services, is an important outcome for the Government.

A number of service delivery initiatives in the 2004-05 Budget contribute to this Government outcome.

Enhance community safety and prevention capability

This budget will continue to invest and strengthen community safety and prevention capability. Budget initiatives include:

- Funding of \$1.8 million in 2004-05 (\$5.4 million over three years) to enhance disaster mitigation and management at the State and local levels.
- Enhancing community capacity building programs in 2004-05 including:
 - \$0.6 million (\$1.7 million over three years) in Community Safety programs;
 - \$0.4 million (\$1.3 million over three years) in ongoing support for CPR for Life;
 - \$0.1 million (\$0.3 million over three years) to broaden the role of Neighbourhood Watch; and
 - An additional \$0.3 million for Community Fire Awareness.



The department continues its strong commitment to improving services to Indigenous communities and individuals with the third year of the Indigenous Australian Service Delivery Enhancement Package.



Emergency Services continues to focus on reducing the level of risk and the impact of emergencies and disasters on communities.

- Funding provided for a range of Indigenous initiatives including the third year of the DES Indigenous Australian Service Delivery Enhancement Package:
 - provision of an ambulance field officer at Cooktown and additional ambulance officers (Indigenous Ambulance Attendants) at Doomadgee and Mornington Island;
 - continuation of the development of bridging programs for Indigenous people to assist them to qualify as student ambulance officers;
 - maintenance of recruitment targets for Indigenous people across the Emergency Services;
 - completion of the joint Emergency Services facility on Palm Island;
 - construction of a joint Emergency Services facility on Mornington Island; and
 - an additional \$0.6 million for improved services and equipment for Indigenous communities statewide.

- Continue the Rural Training Initiative, as part of the third year of the DES Volunteer Support Package, and the employment of five additional iZone trainers to target specific training for permanent staff and volunteers working in the urban/rural interface.
- Funding of \$0.7 million to enhance community safety through the appointment of eight community safety officers to deliver on building fire safety initiatives to ensure high-level compliance prior to the implementation of stage two of the Building and Other Legislation Amendment (BOLA) Act 2002.

Enhance operational service delivery

This budget will continue to invest and strengthen operational service delivery through the following budget initiatives:

- Funding of \$5.6 million in 2004-05 (\$35.9 million over three years) is provided for an additional 240 paramedics over three years, to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services to rural, isolated and remote communities.
- \$2 million to enhance operational service delivery capability on the Sunshine Coast through an



The department will continue to develop and implement flexible and responsive integrated service delivery models and strategies to respond to the diverse needs of Queensland's communities, particularly those in rural, isolated and remote locations.



The department will continue to engage in training initiatives and exercises that provide opportunities for staff and volunteers to enhance their skills.

additional 10 fire fighters and the provision of fire aerial appliance and emergency tender services.

- Funding of \$1.9 million in 2004-05 to finalise the purchase and delivery of the replacement for the Queensland Government Helicopter Rescue Service (Queensland Rescue) AS350B/A Squirrel helicopter.
- Funding of \$40.8 million from 2005-06 (over two years) for the replacement of the Queensland Rescue Bell 412 Helicopter fleet. The department will commence the procurement process in 2004-05.
- The department will continue to invest in essential IT infrastructure, equipment and information systems.
- The department will continue to allocate funds to enhance operational readiness, management and response to a broad range of rescue situations and chemical, biological, radiological, incendiary and explosive (CBRIE) incidents including:
 - Strengthening the State's counter terrorism response capability and ensuring that the Queensland disaster management system can manage the community consequences of a high impact terrorist incident;
 - Enhanced joint Emergency Services training courses for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Counter Disaster and Rescue Services (CDRS) and Queensland Health emergency responders; and
 - Further development of technical rescue capability through the acquisition of additional specialist equipment for confined, trench, vertical and urban search and rescue.



Young Queenslanders are learning life-saving skills through the Emergency Services Cadet program.

- Joint Emergency Service capital investments, including:
 - \$3 million in 2004-05 for joint facilities including the redevelopment of Roma Street, Brisbane, joint facilities at Palm Island and Mornington Island, and one co-located facility at Highfields; and
 - \$5 million for joint corporate information and communication infrastructure.
- QAS capital investments total \$31.1 million, including:
 - nine replacement or redeveloped ambulance stations, two new stations and one field officer residence (Cooktown) to be commenced or completed in 2004-05;
 - \$9.9 million for replacement ambulance vehicles as part of its vehicle replacement program;
 - \$2 million for its program of continued improvement in technical communications and operational equipment such as radio communications and satellite and digital services across the State; and

- \$3.5 million on developing an electronic data capture capability to reduce paperwork by frontline paramedics and improve services.
- QFRS capital investments and grants total \$38.7 million, including:
 - 11 stations or facilities upgraded, one station relocated and a new facility to be commenced or completed in 2004-05;
 - \$2.1 million is provided for land purchases for future stations;
 - \$12 million for new or replacement urban vehicles as part of its fleet replacement program and to meet enhanced service delivery requirements;
 - \$3.8 million for rural fire brigade appliances and firefighting trailers;
 - \$2.4 million on its program of continued improvement in technical communications and operational equipment across the State; and
 - \$3.3 million on operational information and communication systems.



The Emergency Services Volunteer Support Package enhances the capability of volunteers and volunteer organisations, and acknowledges the vital role that volunteers perform in delivering emergency and counter disaster services.

Develop and support our people

- Funding of \$1.1 million is provided in 2004-05 (\$2.9 million over three years) for rural fire brigade training, communications network and research for QFRS (Rural Operations).
- Funding of \$3.3 million is allocated in 2004-05 (\$9.5 million over three years) for CDRS to further enhance the DES Volunteer Support Package in providing equipment, vehicles, training and support for Emergency Services volunteers.
- An additional \$0.2 million in 2004-05 (\$0.6 million over three years) to Surf Life Saving Queensland and Volunteer Marine Rescue organisations.



The department will continue to recognise, support, train and safeguard its permanent and volunteer workforce to ensure their continuing ability to provide excellent service in an increasingly demanding service delivery environment.



Emergency Services works in partnership with dedicated and committed volunteers and volunteer organisations, including Surf Life Saving Queensland.

- \$0.2 million in 2004-05 to enhance the Emergency Services Cadet Program through the establishment of five additional groups across the State and the inclusion of additional emergency services modules in the cadet curriculum.
- Establish four new Emergency Service Units in remote and rural communities (including two Indigenous communities) under the Disaster Management Act 2003 to provide a more efficient option for the delivery of volunteer emergency services.
- The department will continue to progress strategies that will emphasise contemporary management practices that promote and value diversity and which will ensure that the workforce is culturally representative of the community.



Queensland
Government

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