

# Department of Emergency Services

State Budget

05-06



Budget Highlights

Smart State



# Department of Emergency Services

## Message from the Minister

**In 2005-06, the Queensland Government is investing a record \$667.5 million to enhance the delivery of emergency services and improve community safety throughout the State.**



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.

Events such as the tilt train derailment, Asian tsunami and cyclones in North Queensland highlight the fact that we must be better prepared than ever before.

The 2005–06 Budget delivers record capital expenditure of \$110.4 million.

A key feature of this capital expenditure is the enhancement of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island in Brisbane. \$20 million (over three years) will fund the enhancement, which will deliver a new Breathing Apparatus and Training Facility for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and an operational scenario village for multi-service

training of emergency services staff and volunteers across Queensland.

Other budget highlights include:

- Providing for an additional 70 paramedics (as part of 240 over three years) to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services across Queensland.
- Training 20 paramedics each year for three years, in conjunction with Queensland Health, to expand their role so they may assist remote area nurses and rural doctors with ongoing patient care.
- \$7 million for an Automated Data System, to help reduce paperwork by paramedics and improve response times.
- \$12.2 million (\$40.8 million over two years) for the replacement of the Queensland Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns.
- \$3.3 million over four years to enhance bushfire response capability in the iZone, including the employment of five additional iZone training officers to target community education and bushfire preparedness and specific integrated training for permanent and auxiliary staff and volunteers working in the urban/rural interface.
- \$15 million to continue the redevelopment of the Roma Street joint ambulance and fire facility in Brisbane.
- \$2.4 million to commence or complete joint emergency services facilities at Highfields, Roma and Palm Island.
- \$13.2 million for new or replacement urban fire vehicles, \$7.9 million for replacement ambulance vehicles, \$3.8 million for rural fire vehicles and \$2.5 million for SES floodboats, equipment and trailers.
- Enhancement of community capacity building programs, including \$0.5 million in ongoing support for CPR for Life and \$0.1 million to broaden the role of Neighbourhood Watch, and \$0.2 million for Community Fire Awareness.

**The Honourable Chris Cummins MP**  
Minister for Emergency Services

This budget represents a significant commitment to ensuring that Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities. Safety and security, including community preparedness, prevention and recovery, counter terrorism preparedness and response services, is an important outcome for the Government. A number of important service delivery initiatives in the 2005-06 Budget contribute to this Government outcome.

### Building our future

The record capital expenditure of \$110.4 million in this budget reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities.

\$20 million (over three years) will fund the enhancement of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy in Brisbane.

The facility will be developed into a national and international centre of excellence for emergency management training and community safety.

The academy is already attracting international interest and additional funding will position Queensland as a leader in emergency management training within our region.



Record capital expenditure in 2005-06 reflects the Government's significant commitment to ensuring Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities.

The enhancement will deliver a new Breathing Apparatus and Training Facility for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) and an operational scenario village for multi-service and multi-agency training of all Emergency Services staff and volunteers.



The Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy in Brisbane will be developed into a national and international centre for excellence for emergency management training and community safety.



## Enhance operational service delivery

This budget will continue to strengthen operational service delivery through:

- Providing for an additional 70 paramedics (as part of 240 over three years) to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services to rural, isolated and remote communities.
- Training 20 paramedics each year for three years, in conjunction with Queensland Health, to expand their role so they may assist remote area nurses and rural doctors with ongoing patient care.
- Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) capital investments totalling \$49 million, including:
  - 15 replacement ambulance stations, five new stations and one new field office (commenced or completed in 2005–06);
  - \$7.9 million for replacement ambulance vehicles;
  - \$7 million for the continued implementation of the Strategic Information Management Initiative – Automated Data System, to help reduce paperwork by paramedics and improve response times; and



Events such as the tilt train derailment, Asian tsunami and cyclones in North Queensland highlight the need to be better prepared than ever before.



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

- \$2.7 million for continued enhancements to operational communications systems and upgrading of operational equipment across the State.
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service capital investments totalling \$43.9 million, including:
  - Six replacement or upgraded fire stations and two regional office redevelopments, to be commenced or completed in 2005–06;
  - \$13.2 million for new or replacement urban vehicles;
  - \$3.8 million for rural vehicles; and
  - \$2.1 million to upgrade technical communications and operational equipment.
- Continuing the Rural Training Initiative, as part of the fourth year of the department's Volunteer Support Package.
- \$3.3 million for iZone, including the employment of five additional iZone training officers to target community education and bushfire preparedness, and specific integrated training for permanent, auxiliary and volunteer firefighters.

- Counter Disaster and Rescue Services (CDRS) capital investments, including
  - \$12.2 million in 2005–06 (\$40.8 million over two years) for the replacement of the Queensland Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet; and
  - \$7.9 million over three years from 2006–07 for upgrading the provision of aeromedical and air rescue services in the Torres Strait and northern peninsula area.
- \$2.9 million on an Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch system to improve support for QFRS and QAS response services.
- Ongoing joint emergency services training and exercises to further enhance operational readiness, management and response to a broad range of rescue situations and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Incendiary and Explosive (CBRIE) incidents.
- \$2.4 million to commence or complete joint emergency services facilities at Highfields, Roma and Palm Island in 2005–06.
- \$0.3 million (\$0.9 million over four years) for whole-of-Government Mental Health Crisis Intervention Teams.



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.



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.

### Enhance community safety and prevention capability

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

- A further \$1.8 million in 2005–06 to enhance disaster mitigation and management at the State and local levels (this is the second year of a three-year, \$5.4 million commitment).
- \$0.5 million (second year of \$1.3 million over three years) in ongoing support for the cardiopulmonary resuscitation program – CPR For Life.
- \$0.1 million (second year of \$0.3 million over three years) to broaden the role of Neighbourhood Watch.



- \$0.8 million (fourth year of \$2.1 million package) for the department's Indigenous Australian Service Delivery Enhancement Package, including:
  - construction of joint emergency services facilities at Palm Island, Cherbourg and Doomadgee.
  - construction of a Rural Fire Service/State Emergency Service shed in Wujal Wujal;
  - commencing fire safety education with Indigenous organisations/communities in the Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone areas;
  - continuing the development of bridging programs for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to assist them to qualify as student ambulance officers; and
  - increasing access to disaster management education and awareness information for Indigenous communities.



\$40.8 million over two years will fund the replacement of the Queensland Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet.



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

## Develop and support our people

- \$3.1 million (\$9.5 million over three years) to support emergency services volunteers as part of the department's Volunteer Support Package.
- Establishing five new joint Emergency Services Units in remote and rural communities under the Disaster Management Act 2003, to provide more effective volunteer emergency services.
- \$0.9 million (\$3.5 million over six years) for the upgrade of rural volunteer training materials and the acceleration of rural fire brigade training.
- An additional \$0.2 million in 2005–06 (\$0.6 million over three years) to Surf Life Saving Queensland and Volunteer Marine Rescue organisations.
- Enhancing the Emergency Services Cadets Program through the establishment of up to five additional groups and the inclusion of additional modules in the cadet curriculum.
- Continuing to implement management practices that promote ethical conduct, equity, cultural diversity and workplace health and safety. This includes the Supportive Leadership Program and the Command and Control Course for senior officers in QAS, QFRS, CDRS and Police.



### State Budget 2005-06

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