



Cyclone Larry response



State Budget 2006–07

Budget Highlights

Department of Emergency Services



Queensland
Government

Department of Emergency Services



Message from the Minister

In 2006-07, the Queensland Government is investing a record \$744.1 million to enhance the delivery of world-class emergency services to the Queensland community.

This Budget, which has increased by \$76.6 million on last year, is proof of the State Government's commitment to creating safer Queensland communities through frontline operational service delivery and prevention, mitigation and community education.

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. In particular, the Department will be actively learning and applying the lessons from contemporary disasters interstate and overseas, as well as the response to Cyclones Larry and Monica in 2006.

The capital expenditure allocation of \$109.6 million is a reflection of the State Government's dedication to building the structures needed to deliver emergency services in light of the State's rapidly increasing and ageing population.

2006-07 State Budget highlights include:

- Providing an additional 70 paramedics (as part of 240 over three years, which commenced in 2004-05) to address growth in demand and maintain emergency response times.
- \$7.3 million (\$48.3 million over four years) for the replacement of the Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet.
- \$13.5 million for new or replacement urban Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) vehicles and \$3.5 million for rural vehicles.
- \$9.2 million to continue the redevelopment of the Roma Street joint ambulance and fire facility in Brisbane.
- Investing \$6 million (second year of \$20 million over three years) to undertake a major expansion of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy to deliver a new breathing apparatus and training facility for QFRS and an operational scenario village for multi-service training.
- Increasing the annual investment to enhance bushfire response capability in urban-rural interface zones (iZones) to \$3.7 million to provide 10 iZone officers across the state, permanent aerial operations capability, accelerated incident command and control training for volunteer, auxiliary and permanent firefighters and maintaining UHF and VHF communications repeaters and other communications infrastructure.
- Investing a further \$1 million in operational and safety equipment to enhance operational readiness, management and response to fires, rescues, hazardous materials and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Incendiary and Explosive (CBRIE) incidents.
- \$0.49 million in ongoing support for the CPR for Life program and \$0.18 million for community bushfire awareness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Purcell'.

The Honourable Pat Purcell MP
Minister for Emergency Services

Disaster preparedness, response, prevention and recovery services are an important priority for the Queensland Government. This budget represents a significant commitment to ensuring Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities.

Enhance operational service delivery

Recent emergency events and disasters in Australia and overseas have reaffirmed the need to be prepared at all times. While Queensland can celebrate the effective way in which its emergency services have responded to local events, the Department is continuously learning from the lessons of these local and international events.

Operational service delivery is core to keeping Queenslanders safe. This budget will continue to strengthen operational service delivery by providing:

- Output funding of \$3.5 million (\$11 million over five years from 2005-06) and capital funding of \$1.2 million (\$2.4 million over five years from 2005-06) to implement responsibilities under the Government's Counter Terrorism Initiative including:
 - enhanced capability for emergency services first responders
 - establishment of an Emergency Strike Team.
- An additional 70 paramedics (as part of 240 over three years, which commenced in 2004-05) to address growth in demand and maintain emergency response times.
- \$2.9 million (\$12.4 million over four years) for an additional 35 communications officers for Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to meet the increase in demand for call-taking from the community.
- QAS capital investments totalling \$40.3 million, including:
 - five new ambulance stations, 18 replacement/redevelopment stations and one residence (to be commenced or completed in 2006-07)
 - \$4.7 million for replacement ambulance vehicles
 - \$2 million for the continued implementation of the Strategic Information Management Initiative, aimed at reducing paperwork by paramedics, as well as improving service availability and response times
 - \$2.7 million on continued improvement in operational and communications equipment across the State.

- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) capital investments totalling \$36.9 million, including:
 - one new fire and rescue station, eight redevelopments/refurbishments and five station replacements/relocations; as well as the refurbishment of two district offices, and the completion of a replacement regional office
 - \$13.5 million for new or replacement urban vehicles
 - \$3.5 million for rural vehicles
 - \$6.8 million to upgrade technical communications equipment, operational equipment and information technology.



The budget will provide an additional 70 paramedics to address growth in demand and maintain emergency response times.



- Increasing the annual investment to enhance bushfire response capability in urban-rural interface zones (iZones) to \$3.7 million to provide 10 iZone officers across the state, permanent aerial operations capability, accelerated incident command and control training for volunteer, auxiliary and permanent firefighters and maintaining UHF and VHF communications repeaters and other communications infrastructure.
- Investing a further \$1 million in operational and safety equipment to enhance operational readiness, management and response to fires, rescues, hazardous materials and CBRIE incidents.
- \$3.7 million to commence or complete emergency service facilities at Highfields and Palm Island.
- \$9.2 million to continue the redevelopment of the Roma Street joint ambulance and fire facility in Brisbane.
- \$0.2 million (second year of \$0.95 million over four years) for whole-of-Government Mental Health Crisis Intervention Teams.



EMQ capital and grant investments includes the replacement of the EMQ Helicopter Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet.



The budget will Enhance bushfire response capability in urban - rural interface zones and community fire awareness.

- Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) capital and grant investments of \$14.6 million in helicopters, including:
 - \$7.3 million (\$48.3 million over four years) for the replacement of the EMQ Helicopter Rescue Bell 412 helicopter fleet
 - \$2.2 million (\$7.9 million over three years) to commence the upgrade of aeromedical and air rescue services in the Torres Strait and northern peninsula area (as announced in the 2005-06 budget)
 - \$5.1 million (\$13.2 million over four years) to improve aeromedical and rescue helicopter safety by increasing grants to community helicopter providers.



Develop and support our people

The Department will continue to recognise, support, train and safeguard its permanent and volunteer workforce to ensure its continuing ability to provide excellent service in our increasingly demanding service delivery environment. This budget will continue to develop and support our people by:

- Providing \$25.9 million in 2006-07 (\$108.3 million over three years) to better support ambulance officers with improved working conditions (as part of the recent Enterprise Partnership Agreement). This includes an additional \$9 million (\$35.3 million over three years) for the QAS to recruit 144 additional ambulance officers (in addition to the 240 over three years previously committed from 2004-05).



The Department will continue to recognise, support, train and safeguard its permanent and volunteer workforce.



The Department will be actively learning from disasters, such as Cyclone Larry, to reduce the level of risk to communities.

- Investing \$6 million (second year of \$20 million over three years) to undertake a major expansion of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy to deliver a new breathing apparatus and training facility for QFRS and an operational scenario village for multi-service training.
- \$1.7 million to upgrade existing facilities at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy, including an environmental management project on the live fire campus and an upgrade to the urban search and rescue facility.
- Providing \$1.1 million annually to upgrade volunteer firefighter training materials and to accelerate core skills and incident command and control training delivery.
- Continuing to implement contemporary management practices that promote ethical conduct, equity, cultural diversity, and workplace health and safety. This includes the revised code of conduct, continued implementation of Managerial Resolution and the Command and Control Course for senior officers of QAS, EMQ, QFRS, and the Queensland Police Service.

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- 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.
- Increasing Rural Operations staff by 23 to provide improved training to volunteer fire brigades.
- Preparing for the implementation of the integrated whole-of-Government human resource system.
- Continued implementation of the Department's Strategic Workforce Management Plan.



Creating safer Queensland communities through frontline operational service delivery and community education.

Enhance community safety and prevention capability

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

- Investing \$0.10 million (final year of \$0.30 million over three years) to broaden the role of Neighbourhood Watch.
- Allocating \$0.75 million for the Department's Indigenous Australian Service Delivery Enhancement Package.
- Investing \$0.18 million for community fire awareness.
- Investing \$0.49 million in ongoing support for the CPR for Life Program.



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



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