

## State Budget 2007–08 Department of Emergency Services Budget Highlights

### Develop and support our staff and volunteer workforce

**The staff and volunteer workforce of the department remains our most valuable resource in delivering quality emergency services to the community. Safeguarding, supporting and training our staff and volunteers is one of the highest priorities to the department. This budget will continue to develop and support our staff and volunteer workforce through:**

- \$18 million (as part of \$20 million over two years) to undertake a major expansion of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy (QCESA) plus an additional \$4.3 million for air emission control to enhance environmental management of the live fire site, and to make other improvements.
- \$1.2 million to provide appropriate and resilient radio communications facilities, support and training for SES and Rural Fire volunteers.
- Systematic reduction of workplace injuries by 70% (over three years) through the implementation of the Workplace Health and Safety Strategy 2007-2010.
- Enhancing current workforce management strategies to attract and retain specialist staff and volunteers who are representative of the community.
- Boosting the preparedness and response capability of our rural and state emergency service volunteers through:
  - \$10.2 million (over five years) to enhance SES volunteer management and equipment.
  - \$9.5 million (over five years) to improve regional technical and communication equipment.
  - \$21.3 million (over five years) to enhance volunteer training for the SES and Rural Fire Service, including on-line training materials.
  - \$2.5 million (over five years) for protective clothing for rural fire volunteers.



**“This record budget of \$849.3 million will ensure the Department of Emergency Services remains at the forefront of emergency services management. It provides the funding base that will ensure this Department continues to drive best practice in the provision of emergency services, which ultimately will result in a safer Queensland for now and the future.”**

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### Build organisational capability through continuous business improvement

The department continues to build organisational capability through implementing a range of initiatives that assist in maintaining a strong focus on risk management and innovation. This, combined with the commitment to continuous improvement through the adoption of the Australian Business Excellence Framework principles, helps ensure the department's efficiency and sustainability.

Incorporating lessons learnt from, not only our own experiences, but national and international events,

enables us to effectively strengthen our response capability, business continuity planning and organisational adaptiveness. This approach enables the department to mitigate risks and respond to community needs, regardless of the circumstances.

A budget highlight of our continuous business improvement process is the investment of \$3 million to continue the new Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch system for communications centres to enhance the statewide dispatch of fire and ambulance responses.



Queensland  
Government

State Budget 2007-08

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# Queensland State Budget 2007–08

## Budget Highlights Department of Emergency Services

Queensland the Smart State



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## Message from the Minister

The Queensland Government is investing a record \$849.3 million this financial year to boost the capacity of the Department of Emergency Services (DES) and enable the continued provision of world-class emergency services and disaster management to Queenslanders.

With a total increase of over \$105 million from last year's budget, the Queensland Government has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that communities remain safe and secure through the provision of frontline operational response services delivery, disaster prevention, mitigation and community education services.

DES will continue to work collaboratively with key agencies at national, state and local level to reduce the vulnerability of Queensland communities to natural and man-made disasters.

Many of the initiatives in this budget will allow the department to further apply the lessons learnt from our experiences and the experiences of our interstate and international counterparts during recent natural and man-made emergencies.

A record capital expenditure allocation of \$206.9 million will allow the department to replace critical communications infrastructure and continue to enhance its capability to respond to the State's rapidly increasing and ageing population.

### Highlights from the 2007–08 State Budget include:

- Increased recurrent funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.
- \$41.7 million (as part of \$70.4 million over two years) to build a new state-of-the-art Integrated Communications and State Emergency Operations Centre.
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) capital building program totalling \$12.3 million including one new fire station, 14 replacement/redeveloped stations and three facility replacement/refurbishments.
- Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) capital building program totalling \$32.2 million including three new ambulance stations, 16 replacement stations, and one station redevelopment.
- An additional \$8.2 million (over four years) to enhance the helicopter service for north Queensland and Torres Strait communities.
- \$26.6 million (as part of \$48.3 million over three years) to purchase three AgustaWestland 139 helicopters which will greatly improve the safety and capacity of aeromedical and search and rescue operations.
- \$4.7 million (as part of \$13.4 million over five years) to upgrade counter terrorism preparedness and response capabilities.

- \$15.7 million for over 140 new ambulance vehicles to enhance service delivery.
- \$22.3 million to continue the major expansion and other improvements to the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy.
- \$3 million to continue the new Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch System for communications centres to enhance the statewide dispatch of fire and ambulance resources.
- \$13.3 million (as part of \$52.1 million over five years) for training and equipment to boost the preparedness and response capability of our volunteers.
- \$2.1 million to support Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association, which will enable them to maintain their vital maritime search and rescue and other essential emergency services.
- \$1.6 million (as part of \$6.4 million over four years) to assist Surf Life Saving Queensland to provide additional beach patrols and equipment.

The Honourable Pat Purcell MP  
Minister for Emergency Services

### Strengthen community safety, prevention capability and resilience

During times of disaster or emergency, community cohesion and resilience are essential to the recovery process. The department recognises the importance of keeping Queenslanders well-informed and well-prepared to face natural and man-made hazards into the future.

Other budget initiatives aimed at continuing to strengthen community safety, prevention capability and resilience include:

- \$0.89 million (as part of \$4.6 million over four years) to enhance spatial information to more accurately predict storm surge inundation and identify storm tide impacts and evacuation strategies.
- \$0.75 million to continue the implementation of community safety, training and employment initiatives in Indigenous communities.
- \$0.51 million in 2007-08 (as part of \$2.2 million over five years) to introduce the 132 500 National SES number which will provide a single coordinated service that every Queenslander can use to contact SES during an emergency.
- \$0.2 million to continue an education and awareness program on cyclone preparedness that includes information kits for new residents and resources for volunteers.
- \$1.6 million (as part of \$6.4 million over four years) to assist Surf Life Saving Queensland with additional beach patrols and equipment such as: professional lifeguard services, power craft and water safety services, aerial surveillance and rescue services, and risk assessment auditing (coastal, signage).
- \$0.3 million (as part of \$1.2 million over four years) to support the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland to expand water safety campaigns specifically targeted to all primary school children.
- \$2.1 million to continue to support Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland (VMRAQ) and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA).



### Enhance operational service delivery

Every Queenslanders relies on a fast and effective emergency services response 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The ever-increasing frequency of emergency and disaster situations has reaffirmed the need to be prepared at all times.

The department operates under a model of continuous improvement and is committed to maintaining its world-class delivery of emergency services. This budget will continue to enhance operational service delivery through:

- The recruitment of an additional 250 ambulance officers including:
  - 208 paramedics, communications officers, clinical and support staff to assist QAS to manage demand for services driven by a growing and ageing population and the community's increasing use of emergency health services, and to staff a new ambulance station at Ashgrove/The Gap; and
  - 42 paramedics to complete the program of an additional 144 ambulance officers over two years. These additional positions will contribute to the long-term occupational health and well-being of QAS paramedics, patient transport officers and communications officers.
- \$18.2 million for replacement of urban and rural fire appliances.
- \$15.7 million to commission over 140 new ambulance vehicles to ensure a cost-effective and sustainable fleet and to provide additional vehicles for the extra ambulance officers commencing service.
- Introduction of an antibiotic to combat meningococcal disease, with all paramedics scheduled to receive training in this drug by early Spring 2007.
- Accelerating the defibrillator replacement strategy.
- \$41.7 million (as part of \$70.4 million over two years) to build a new state-of-the-art Integrated Communications and State Emergency Operations Centre to replace ambulance and fire triple zero communication facilities at Spring Hill and the Gold Coast.
- QFRS capital building program totalling \$12.3 million including one new fire station, 14 replacement/redeveloped stations and three facility replacement/refurbishments.
- QAS capital building program totalling \$32.2 million including three new ambulance stations, 16 replacement stations and one station redevelopment.
- An additional \$8.2 million (over four years) to enhance the helicopter service for North Queensland and Torres Strait communities. This will provide greater aeromedical, search and counter disaster capabilities.
- \$26.6 million (as part of \$48.3 million over three years) to purchase three AgustaWestland 139 helicopters which will greatly improve the safety and capacity of aeromedical and search and rescue operations.
- Enhancing radio communications infrastructure and equipment.
- \$4.7 million (as part of \$13.4 million over five years) to upgrade DES counter terrorism preparedness and response capability through additional resources and training for the emergency strike team based at the Special Operations Complex at Cannon Hill.

