



Improving emergency services

The Government will continue to invest in quality emergency and disaster management services that support and serve our communities and help to keep Queenslanders safe.

Over the past year, Queensland's emergency services have continued their critical work helping communities in crisis. This has involved providing essential emergency relief services across the State in response to storms, flooding and severe cyclones.

Natural disasters and medical emergencies are unpredictable in their timing and severity. To ensure Queensland is prepared, the Government will continue investing in our State Emergency Service's response capability.

In 2009-10 Government funding will provide:

- \$19.3 million for the construction or redevelopment of 20 ambulance facilities
- \$22.2 million for nine new or improved fire stations, and improvements to facilities at the Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island
- \$3.5 million to employ an additional 50 ambulance officers
- \$20.9 million to purchase 150 new ambulances
- \$10.4 million for 23 new or replacement urban fire trucks
- \$4.4 million for 34 new or replacement rural fire vehicles including the first six of 14 specialised 3,000 litre water-carrying appliances fitted with essential communications and bushfire fighting requirements

- \$54.9 million toward the \$78.7 million integrated communications and emergency operations centre being constructed at Kedron
- the donation of a twin-engine EC135 helicopter worth \$6 million to Surf Life Saving Queensland and \$400,000 per annum towards ongoing operating costs
- \$200,000 per annum over four years for extra beach patrol and lifeguard services, and expanded communications and camera surveillance networks for regional beaches north of the Sunshine Coast

The Government recognises the importance of volunteers to the life-saving work of emergency service groups such as the State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service. The 'Support our Heroes' package will invest \$12.98 million to support existing volunteers, attract new volunteers and prepare communities to respond to natural disasters.

In 2009-10, this package will provide:

- \$1.22 million for vehicles, flood boats and trailers to boost the State Emergency Service's capability
- \$1.84 million for safety equipment and initiatives for rural firefighters by providing fire-reflective curtains and replacing petrol driven pumps with diesel driven pumps in 965 rural fire vehicles.

