

SUPPORTING QUEENSLAND'S FIREFIGHTERS

357 ADDITIONAL FRONTLINE FIREFIGHTERS FOR QUEENSLAND

In the past decade, Queensland was impacted by more than 80 significant natural disaster events that resulted in the loss of life and more than \$15 billion in damage to public infrastructure. Cyclones, severe storms, flooding and storm surges, through to drought, heatwaves and bushfires are a way of life, and are becoming more prevalent and more significant as a result of growing populations and cities, and climate change.

In 2019, Queensland experienced the worst bushfire season on record, with 7.7 million hectares scorched across the state, putting lives at risk, destroying homes and businesses. Last season alone, we had catastrophic bushfires in Central Queensland followed by unprecedented flooding in North Queensland and across drought affected areas one month later.

In addition to responding to natural disasters, firefighters are also often the first responders to housefires, car accidents, rescues and other non-climate related emergency situations, including most recently in supporting the response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. They also work with our communities to support emergency and disaster preparedness, including through targeted operations like for example Operation Cool Burn.

Our firefighters are a key element of our state's emergency and natural disaster response and management capability, both here at home, assisting interstate and overseas. Their dedication and bravery saves lives everyday across our state.

We value, we support, and we will always ensure that the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services can prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of fire and emergency events.



OUR COMMITMENT AND PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to bolster the capacity of our frontline emergency response services by increasing firefighters across Queensland, with:



\$86.26 million to support an additional 357 frontline firefighters over the next five years.

Our priority is keeping Queenslanders safe and protecting our valuable environment from natural disasters. Additional firefighters will support the delivery of dedicated crews on special appliances like BA HAZMATs; greater rostering flexibility, and world-class training through permanent training instructors and development officers for the School of Fire and Emergency Services Training.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND



PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

The Palaszczuk Government has delivered on our previous election commitment of an additional 100 permanent Fire and Rescue firefighters and 12 fire communication officers including:

- Five additional firefighters allocated to Yeppoon Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) station, enabling the FRS to move to a seven-day permanent shift model
- Four additional firefighters allocated at the Port Douglas FRS Station, bringing the total number of full-time firefighters at the station to five, and allowing the station to expand to a five-day permanent shift model with additional support from local Auxiliaries
- Five additional firefighters allocated to the Coolum FRS, supporting a transition from an Auxiliary station to a five-day permanent day shift station plus Auxiliary firefighters
- Five additional firefighters allocated to the Airlie Beach FRS, enabling an upgrade from a five-day permanent day shift model plus Auxiliary personnel, to a seven-day permanent day shift model plus Auxiliary firefighters
- Four additional firefighters allocated at both the Emerald and Kingaroy FRS's, previously staffed by one Station Officer plus Auxiliary personnel, supporting a transition to a five-day permanent day shift model plus Auxiliaries
- One additional firefighter each for the Highfields and Dalby FRSs, transitioning these stations from an Auxiliary station to a Station Officer plus Auxiliary firefighter model

We have also secured a Large Aerial Tanker, bolstering our aerial firefighting capability and helping to ensure our firefighters have the necessary bushfire fighting resources they need to protect Queenslanders. This \$18 million investment keeps the aerial tanker in Queensland's skies for at least five years.



Find out more online about how the Palaszczuk Government is Supporting Queensland's Firefighters and Backing Queensland Jobs

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NEWMAN-FRECKLINGTON LEGACY

Under the Newman-Frecklington Government there were 56 redundancies and 12 redeployees from the QFRS, recruitment was frozen, recruit training courses were cancelled, and they stripped support staff out of QFES.

The LNP planned to sack 46 Rural Fire Service officers and 10 support staff but Queenslanders forced them to back down after an angry public backlash, led by one of their own - the former Member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson.

The Newman-Frecklington Government abolished a number of state-wide programs including:

- Firefighters Wellbeing program
- Fight fire fascination
- Road crash rescue for schools
- Community Education (regional positions as well as State)
- Community Liaison Officers
- Indigenous Liaison
- Auxiliary Liaison
- Juvenile Arson Offences Program
- EEO Recruitment – diversity
- Smoke Alarm subsidy Scheme
- QFRS Library
- Facilities maintenance- Carpenters/ electricians/painters.

In January 2020, the LNP announced a 10-point-plan to overhaul Queensland's bushfire strategy.

Deb Frecklington is yet to reveal how much she will allocate. What will she cut to support the plan?