

Question on Notice
No. 844
Asked on 28 November 2012

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the SES support on the Gold Coast— Will the Minister provide an update on the service in the region?

ANSWER:

The Gold Coast SES Unit was established in 1975 and serves the residents of the Gold Coast City from Coolangatta to Yatala.

The Unit is managed by a Local Controller in a volunteer capacity and is jointly supported by Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) and the Gold Coast City Council.

The Gold Coast SES Unit has 254 active members (as at 30 November 2012). The Unit comprises of six SES Groups located at Carrara, Coolangatta, Pimpama, Runaway Bay, Southport and Springbrook. Each of these groups is managed by a Group Leader who reports directly to the Unit Local Controller.

The Gold Coast SES Unit headquarters is located at 195 Queen Street, Southport and is co-located with the Southport SES Group.

They are responsible for the following functions within the Gold Coast City; storm damage operations, land search and rescue, vertical rescue, flood boat operations, traffic management, agency support, specialist rescue and community education.

To support their SES functions, the Unit has a large amount of equipment; including five flood boats and 12 four wheel drives / light commercial vehicles.

Additionally, to enable the Unit to perform its functions they have 26 appointed trainers across the various disciplines and are further assisted by trainers from within the EMQ South East Area office.

During the 2011 -12 year, the Gold Coast SES Unit has been activated in response to a variety of emergency and disasters, with a total of 2,276 operational hours performed. In preparation for these operations, the Unit has completed many hours of training to ensure they are ready and able to assist the Gold Coast community in times of emergencies or disasters.

The Unit is very active in supporting other emergency services and provides assistance to local community events including the Gold Coast 600, Safer Schoolies Response, Gold Coast Marathon and the Kokoda Challenge.

The Unit also provides assistance to other SES Units and Groups throughout Queensland and Australia in times of emergency or disaster. Over recent years, SES volunteers from the Gold Coast Unit have been deployed to assist with events including the Brisbane and South East Queensland floods in 2011-12, Tropical Cyclone Yasi, Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill, and numerous forensic searches to assist the Queensland Police Service.

The volunteers of the Gold Coast SES Unit continue to carry on the strong tradition of the SES, providing assistance to the Queensland Community during times of need.