



## Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

File No: CSD/01638  
Ref No: 09193-2014  
Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions

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**11 DEC 2014**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition Number 2316-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 25 November 2014. The principal petitioner is Mr Philip Feldman of Tin Can Bay. The Petition is in support of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA).

The Queensland Government has a strong plan for revitalising of frontline emergency services and volunteers for a brighter and safer future for all Queenslanders.

I recognise and acknowledge the outstanding work and service provided by the AVCGA and also the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ). Both associations are vital to making the coastal waters of Queensland safe.

I acknowledge that neither association has received any substantial increase in funding since the year 2000. I am proud to announce that the Newman Government has rectified this unacceptable situation through the signing of a new agreement with AVCGA that provides for a 28% increase in funding. Additionally, a commitment has been given to form a Joint Marine Rescue Working Group that will:

- review the volunteer marine rescue environment and objectives;
- develop a sustainable funding model, including identifying future government contributions and opportunities for sponsorship;
- explore other ways public safety agencies can assist and support the VMRAQ and AVCGA e.g. through joint procurement processes, training and development; and
- progress toward amalgamation of VMRAQ and AVCGA.

The Joint Marine Rescue Working Group will engage with both AVCGA and VMRAQ as well as government stakeholders such as the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

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This initiative will set the foundation for a sustainable volunteer marine rescue service for years to come.

Should you require further information, Mr Peter Jeffrey, Acting Assistant Commissioner, State Emergency Service is available on telephone number (07) 3635 1619 or email [peter.jeffrey@qfes.qld.gov.au](mailto:peter.jeffrey@qfes.qld.gov.au).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jack Dempsey MP

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**