

Question on Notice
No. 599
Asked on 17 June 2020

MR C BOYCE ASKED MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON C CRAWFORD)

QUESTION:

With reference to there not being a budget for 2020-21—
Will the Minister outline the following in relation to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' 2020-21 financials the (a) budget for Rural Fire Services in 2020-21, (b) number of new rural trucks to be delivered in 2020-21, (c) total number of front-line urban FTE positions in 2020-21 and (d) number of new front-line urban FTE positions to be delivered in 2020-21?.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Consistent with the positions of the Federal Government, and all other States and Territories, Queensland suspended the budget for 2020-21. This decision was based on the advice of the Prime Minister and Governor of the Reserve Bank who have said it is simply not sensible to produce economic forecasts at this time.

Nonetheless, the Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing Queenslanders with maximum financial transparency and will publish a COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review (C19-FER) in September this year.

The COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review (C19-FER) will be produced by the Queensland Treasury to the same standards used for the annual Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review (MYFER).

This process is ongoing across Government, and as such more detailed financial information for QFES will be available in due course.

COVID-19 has had significant economic impacts, both globally and here in Queensland. The Queensland Government has had to invest heavily to save jobs, and will also see a significant reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 support measures.

That is why the Treasurer announced \$3 billion in savings, which in this difficult economic environment means the Government can focus on prioritising expenditure to create jobs, build essential infrastructure and deliver frontline services.

Rather than cutting frontline services or neglecting to upgrade outdated fire trucks, as happened under the LNP, the Palaszczuk Government has invested in QFES' frontline services and will continue to do so, this means more firefighters, more trucks and supporting our volunteers to ensure they are ready to face whatever mother nature throws at Queensland.