



Office of the  
**Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
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Dear ~~Mr Laurie~~ **NEIL**,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 February 2019 regarding petition number 3230-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly about increasing government support for Rural Fire Brigades (RFB) in Queensland.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has supported Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to implement several initiatives to improve support for RFBs in Queensland.

During this period, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered 332 new Rural Fire trucks across the State. In enhancing the support for RFBs with fleet management, QFES now fully funds the replacement appliances and all operating costs such as fuel and maintenance expenses.

On 20 February 2020, I jointly announced with Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk that Queensland's aerial response to bushfires will be boosted with funding secured for a long-term Large Air Tanker (LAT) capability for the State, with funding of more than \$15 million and \$3.1 million in ongoing costs to bolster capabilities with a Queensland-based LAT.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the incredible commitment of our firefighting staff and volunteers, which is why we have invested \$2.3 million to construct the new Rathdowney Fire Station, increasing firefighting capacity in one of our State's most bushfire-affected communities.

These examples demonstrate the practical support that the Palaszczuk Government is delivering to improve tangible support rural firefighters in local communities right across Queensland.

I trust this information is helpful to you. Should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please contact Mr Peter Clarke, Chief of Staff on telephone (07) 3008 3700.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP  
**Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**

19/3/2020