



The Honourable Mark Ryan MP  
Minister for Police and Corrective Services and  
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

File No: QFS/15841  
Ref No: 02239-2021  
Your Ref: 3441-20

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15/07/2021

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 17 June 2021 about petition number 3441-20.

This Government recognises and appreciates the outstanding dedication of our Rural Fire Service volunteers. These selfless volunteers keep the community safe, and we back them 100%.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has supported the valuable work of our Rural Fire Service volunteers with significant investment through the provision of new appliances, capital works projects and other resources.

The 2021-22 Rural Fire Service budget is a record \$58.7 million, which is an \$8.9 million increase from the 2020-21 budget. It includes funding for fuel and maintenance of up to \$3.8 million as well as funding for land acquisition for brigades, payment of brigade utility expenses, improvement grants, personal protective equipment and clothing for volunteers. This record Rural Fire Service budget also more than doubles the Rural Fire Service appliance program, with a \$12.5 million investment.

The 2021-22 Queensland Budget sees the allocation of a collective \$42.7 million over four years for bushfire mitigation, enhancement of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services natural disaster predictive services, strengthening the planning around prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from bushfires and disasters, along with land use and planning enhancements in support of bushfire management.

This government has funded an increase of 20 full-time operational positions, to support hazard reduction, education and better coordinate brigades to enhance community safety. The recruitment and selection process for these positions is underway.

Helping the community is at the heart of what our Rural Fire Service does, and it often brings volunteers into contact with children when responding to emergencies or taking part in community events. For this reason, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services announced in 2019 that it is a legal requirement for Rural Fire Brigade volunteers to hold a current blue card.

This government acknowledges the resilience and courage of Rural Fire Service volunteers who bring their own unique skills and experience to their roles. It was a privilege to sign the Rural Fire Service Volunteer Charter on 12 June this year.

The Rural Fire Service Volunteer Charter is an agreement between the State of Queensland, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland. The Charter ensures the State of Queensland, through Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, will commit to consultation with volunteers on matters which might reasonably be expected to affect volunteers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**