



The Hon Pat Purcell MP
Member for Bulimba



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Emergency Services

File No: (DES/02/0647/P1)
Ref No: (02528-2006)

- 4 AUG 2006

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 31 May 2006, regarding the petition (No 662-06) received by the House requesting urgent consideration be given to the placing of a fire station in the southern part of the Redland Shire.

I am advised that population increase predictions were prepared in the late 1990's as part of the department's planning process and indicated a population for mainland Redlands of 158,000 by the year 2011.

These projections led to an allocation in the 2001-2002 State Budget for the purchase a block of land in the Redland Bay area. However, the advent of the 'koala corridor', and land use restrictions in the shire put in place since then have meant that the growth in the Redland Bay area has not grown as fast as initially predicted.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) are the experts on fire service delivery. To help plan for the best service within the Redland Bay area and ensure the ultimate site chosen for any fire station is in the right location and operational at the right time, the QFRS actively monitors emergency incident data, response times, population density, projected and actual growth.

Fire and Rescue service delivery to the Redland Bay area is currently met by the Capalaba and Cleveland stations and additional support is provided by other surrounding stations and despite the Opposition repeatedly using our fire fighters as a football to score cheap political points, the Redlands community enjoys a world-class level of fire service that meets or exceeds service delivery targets.

The hard working local Member, Mr John English MP, continues to actively lobby on behalf of his constituents on this issue. The Beattie Government is always prepared to listen to community concerns and in line with our ongoing commitment to community safety needs, emergency service rescue resources in the Redlands will be continually monitored and changed as necessary.

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Should any interested party require further information, I would encourage contacting Mr Ron James, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Brisbane Region, QFRS on telephone number (07) 3247 8596, who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely 

Hon Pat Purcell MP
Minister for Emergency Services