



Executive Briefing Note

Requested by: Acting Assistant Commissioner RFS, Gary McCormack

Critical **Urgent** **General**

Ref: 01138-2018

Briefing note for approval

Briefing note for information

To: Mr Mike Wassing, Deputy Commissioner Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience

Subject: QFES meeting with Local MP Bruce Saunders, Maryborough **Date:** 23/02/18

1. Background

- Rural Fire Service (RFS) Regional Manager (RM) Peter Hollier and Acting Area Director (AD) Ross Stacey were requested to attend a meeting with Maryborough MP Mr Bruce Saunders to discuss RFS facilities at Tinana and Poona.
- At a RIPE discussion, it was agreed to request a QFES meeting and Fire and Rescue RDO Michelle Young, SES RM Ilett and RFS A/AD Ross Stacy attended a meeting on 13 February 2018.

2. Issues

- Market Lead Proposal Maryborough – Mr Saunders, who recently met with the QFES Commissioner at Parliament, stated that he had reinforced his intent regarding the size of this proposed building, being a three-storey structure that accommodates for the future. Mr Saunders further stated that he told the Treasurer, Minister and Commissioner that he will not accept anything less than three storeys. Additionally, Mr Saunders was indicating that funding may have to be re-directed to this project to ensure the community get what they are asking for.
- Tinana RFB Station location – Acting AD Stacey and RM Hollier presented the response times and volunteer home localities to Mr Saunders, identifying that the suggested alternate station site would not be suitable and would increase response times. Agreed that RFS will further investigate alternative land and report back once identified.
- Poona RFB Station - Acting AD Stacey and RM Hollier presented the current status of the Brigade Station, capital expenditure and that RFS Management believe there is no immediate need to make any change to this RFB in the medium term.
- Boonooroo - Mr Saunders' vision is for a three service facility that is proposed in the March Budget for capital forecast for Mr Saunders' Electorate. Currently SES have a facility in the area with no RFS. RFS has facilities at Bidwell that flood and this "vision" will be discussed with the Brigade to see if this would be acceptable. Additionally, it was mooted that Poona RFB could move to Boonooroo to this joint facility. Acting AD Stacey and RM Hollier believe that this was not required however AD Stacey to sound out RFB's re this vision.
- SES - Mr Ilett discussed SES facilities and indicated that the current facility at Boonaroo/Sandy Straits was adequate to the needs of the existing volunteer numbers (this was previously briefed to the Minister in September 2016), and that the priority for enhanced facility in Fraser Coast was Maryborough. Mr Ilett also indicated that Council has suggested re-location of the Hervey Bay SES Group. There was discussion of the Council's desire to

*Noted
27/2/18*

Action Officer: Peter Hollier Area: RFS NCR

Telephone: Contrary to the Public Interest

explore alternative funding models, and Mr Saunders expressed support for a State funded model.

- Howard Complex – Auxiliary Service Delivery to be in place eventually. Mr Saunders stated that this was confirmed by the Commissioner. Mr Hollier represented to Mr Saunders the funding challenges the change in Service Delivery would present for all RFBs in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area as this service area is 25% of the current funding total for the Brigades who receive the Council's Special Rate Levy. Mr Saunders stated this would present an opportunity for this policy issue, funding of Emergency Services, to be raised at State level.
- Mr Saunders indicated he was happy with the three-service approach to meetings with himself and his staff.

3. Consultation

- Consultation has occurred with Mr Peter Hollier, Regional Manager, Rural Fire Service who concurs with the contents of this brief.
- Have you considered whether Legal Services needs to be consulted? N/A

4. Is this in accordance with Government election commitments?

- Yes. Howard Emergency Services Complex was an election commitment.

5. Has this matter been considered by a QFES Governance Committee?

- N/A

6. Funding

- N/A

7. If this brief includes a new policy; publication; report; initiative or is a change in a policy or publication; is this information suitable for release on the Right to Information Publication Scheme web pages?

- No

8. Recommendation

- That you note the contents of this brief.

Contrary to the Public Interest



Gary McCormack
ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mike Wassing
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
CHIEF OFFICER RURAL FIRE SERVICE
CHIEF OFFICER STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM AND
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

/ /

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

26.2.18



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1. Background

- Mr Bruce Saunders MP, Member for Maryborough, requested a meeting with Superintendent Peter Hollier, Regional Manager, North Coast Region, Rural Fire Service (RFS) and A/Inspector Ross Stacey, A/ Area Director, Maryborough to discuss RFS facilities at Tinana and Poona.
- At a Regional Integrated Planning Executive (RIPE) discussion, it was agreed that additional Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) representatives would attend the meeting on 13 February, 2018 alongside the RFS staff, including Michelle Young, Regional Director of Operations, Fire and Rescue Service, and Merrick Ilett, Regional Manager, State Emergency Service (SES).

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Action Officer: Peter Hollier

Area: RFS NCR

Telephone:

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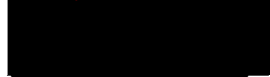
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Contrary to the Public Interest



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Gary McCormack
ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mike Wassing
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
CHIEF OFFICER RURAL FIRE SERVICE
CHIEF OFFICER STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

6/3/18

12/3/18

Noted / ~~Approved~~ / ~~Not Approved~~

Comments:

Howard complex not to change :-
Service delin, methodology without
risk, community & Regi/State planning processes
based on need. No indication by State for
change.

Wanda Kropp

From: Collette Stewart on behalf of RFS Assistant Commissioner
Sent: Monday, 12 March 2018 1:32 PM
To: Peter Hollier; Tony Johnstone; Gary McCormack
Cc: SES Assistant Commissioner
Subject: 01138-2018 EBN QFES Meeting with Local MP Bruce Saunders, Maryborough
Attachments: 01138-2018 EBN QFES Meeting with Local MP Bruce Saunders, Maryborough - DC Endorsed.pdf

Hello all,

Please see attached EBN regarding QFES Meeting with Local MP Bruce Saunders, Maryborough. This has been endorsed by the DC with a comment.

Kind regards,

Collette Stewart

A/Executive Assistant



Head Office
Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Phone: (07) 3635 3834

Email: Collette.Stewart@qfes.qld.gov.au

Web: www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au



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Action Officer: Peter Hollier

Area: RFS NCR

Telephone:

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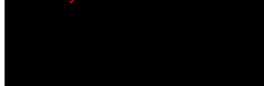
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Contrary to the Public Interest



Gary McCormack
ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Contrary to the Public Interest



Mike Wassing
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CHIEF OFFICER RURAL FIRE SERVICE
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6/3/18

12/3/18

Noted / ~~Approved~~ / ~~Not Approved~~

Comments:

Howard complex not to change :-
Service delin, methodology without
risk, community & Regi/State planning processes
based on need. No indication by State for
change.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
The Honourable Craig Crawford MP

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

QFES
 MO
 COS
 PPA
 SPA
 PA
 MEDIA
 ADMIN

MIN REPLY
 CHIEF OF STAFF REPLY
 PPA / SPA / PA REPLY
 ACKNO LETTER
 REFERRAL LETTER
 QFES REPLY
 COPY OF RESPONSE
 BRIEFING NOTE
 PPQ
 DOT POINT ADVICE
 FILE IN MO
 FILE AT DEPARTMENT
 FOR INFO / ACTION

COPY TO MINISTER
 COPY TO COS
 COPY TO MEDIA
 COPY TO POLICY
 COPY TO:
 COPY TO COMM, QFES

Date received by MO	13/12/19
MO Reference Number	M000964 944
Date sent to QFES	16/12/19
MO due date	13.1.20.

KEY:

MO – Minister's office
 QFES – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
 COS – Chief of Staff
 PPA – Principal Policy Advisor
 SPA – Senior Policy Advisor
 PA – Policy Advisor
 PPQ – Possible Parliamentary Question

Date received by QFES	16 DEC 2019
QFES reference number	04748-2019
QFES due date	9/01/2020

Admin Comments:

Policy Advisor Comments (PA must sign the action requested above):

Letter to ~~Mr~~ ~~Crawford~~ MP
 Bruce Saunders – S.S

Contrary to the Public Interest

Policy Advisor Signature:

Date: 16/12/19

COS Comments (COS must sign the action requested above):

COS Signature:

Date:

Department Comments:

~~MR~~ Capital Works EMCS
 16.12.19
 w/ input from PSB if required.

Stephanie Saal

From: Nick Barter
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 3:04 PM
To: Ron Fossen
Cc: External - Bruce Saunders; Stephanie Saal
Subject: RE: Maryborough fire Station

Good afternoon Ron

Good to talk to you. Upon review it looks like Minister Crawford's office is best placed to help you out on this one.

I have spoken to Stephanie, who is happy to help you out.

Regards



Nick Barter

Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services

P 07 3035 8321 Email: Police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 | PO Box 15195 City East QLD 4002

From: Ron Fossen <Ron.Fossen@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 2:54 PM
To: Nick Barter <Nick.Barter@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: External - Bruce Saunders <Bruce.Saunders@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Maryborough fire Station

Hi Nick,

Sorry quick call but I have an appointment I have to get to please see bellow from a good friend of the office and Bruce will probably

Kind Regards
Ron Fossen
EO for Bruce Saunders MP
Member for Maryborough
Ph. 07 4114 1100

Ron,

As discussed, staff at the Maryborough QFES Regional Office are concerned about the proposed temporary move to the office space on level 1 above Llew O'Brien's office in Kent St. This includes the current area on level 1 being used by the QPS Wide Bay Burnett District Office and the vacated area previously used by a State Government

agency. The move out of the current Fire Station must occur by early April I am led to believe. Staff from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) Property and Facilities team are responsible for identifying suitable commercial premises for the move of operational fire fighting staff (ie Fire Station staff) and corporate staff and QFES management. Currently the plan is to move the Fire Station to the old Maryborough TAFE College in Nagel St utilising the large shed at the back along with the Stores building. (The use of both of these buildings needs to be confirmed - one building will not be enough to house the fire station appliances, stores and staff). This appears to be the only suitable building available in Maryborough for the temporary move of the Fire Station. Access to these buildings by QFES staff and the fire appliances needs to be considered in the event of other entities using other buildings on the old TAFE campus. It is expected that it will be at least 18 months until the new Fire Station will be ready to move back into. Staff were hopeful that Blocks E & F at the old TAFE college would be available which would have allowed all staff to move to this premises, but advice received is that these 2 blocks are out of scope.

So the current advice received is that PSBA P&F staff will soon sign a contract to have the QFES management and corporate staff utilise the office space in Kent St. Along with other staff, I hold serious concerns about the ability to move 46 staff broken into 7 groups who currently utilise 16 offices into the Kent St premises. There is also a requirement to setup the Regional Operations Centre (ROC) which is currently setup to run out of the Fire Station training room. We also need access to sufficient toilets, tea room(s), meeting rooms, resource room, IT workshop and small and large storage areas.

The ongoing problem is the lack of available and suitable commercial properties in Maryborough or Hervey Bay. We are running out of time to find suitable office space(s) and we need lead in time of up to 2 months to order data network services and to fix data network cabling at any site which we may move to. There is also discussion that some staff may be moved out to the Howard Fire Station. This may be a solution for some of the staff.

There may however be an alternative solution. The old St Stephen's Hospital in John St has been vacant for a number of years and the current owners would appear to be interested in ensuring that the facility can be put back to good use. I have completed a walkthrough of the buildings with Inspector Archie Andrews who has a trade background. He agrees that the building needs some repairs made (by the owner) and that it has sufficient office space, plenty of parking and still in a central location in Maryborough. The site caretaker ^{Contrary to the Public Interest} took the time to show us through all areas. Of most interest was the office space upstairs and lower office space in and around the main reception. QFES managers could be based upstairs with Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service staff located downstairs along with IT staff. It would however be necessary for the current owners (Friendlies Society - Maryborough and Hervey Bay) to assist in covering repair costs in order to bring the site back to a condition suitable for tenancy. No formal approach has been made to the owners. Contacts are : ^{Contrary to the Public Interest} (Caretaker - ^{Contrary to the Public Interest}) and ^{Contrary to the Public Interest} (Owner - ^{Contrary to the Public Interest}). We would not be looking to take up all space within the hospital. This proposal of effectively turning the disused hospital into commercial office space might be attractive to the owners who are required to maintain ageing infrastructure at a substantial cost. With the lack of available commercial business space in Maryborough, this could become a long term proposition for the owners who may find other government or private tenants in the future. I am sure that the people of Maryborough would be very happy to see the facility put to good use and even better to serve as a temporary base for QFES staff.

I have scanned photos of the site plans for the St Stephen's Hospital. Some are attached.

It would be appreciated if some immediate effort be made to have PSBA staff investigate the potential and cost of utilising office space at the old Stephen's Hospital if the owner was interested in making repairs and happy to have lease costs comparable to what would otherwise be paid for leasing the Kent St premises.

I would be happy to provide further advice on this matter if required.

Consider the environment before you print this email.

NOTICE - This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and only for the use of the addressee.



Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

File No: QFS/15524
Ref No: 04748-2019

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15457 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3008 3700
Email FireandEmergencyServices@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Mr Bruce Saunders MP
Member for Maryborough
Shop 1, Comet Place
133 Lennox Street
MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

Dear Mr Saunders

Bruce,

Thank you for the email from your office on 13 December 2019 about the options for temporary accommodation for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) whilst the proposed replacement Fire and Rescue Station and Emergency Response Centre is being constructed in Lennox Street, Maryborough.

I have asked QFES to look into the matter so I can be better informed about the issues raised.

I am advised by QFES that the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation of the site, to allow for a proposed replacement emergency services facility, was gazetted on 1 November 2019. Furthermore, it is understood that the QFES forward Capital Works Program has accounted for funding for the project over the next five years with the majority of the funds proposed to be required for the build in late 2020-21.

Regarding the temporary accommodation requirements, I am advised that the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) on behalf of QFES, has been investigating options for temporary accommodation for the current Maryborough functions. The options include discussions with the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning regarding the temporary utilisation of a portion of the former Maryborough TAFE site for operational functions as the Fire and Rescue Station.

PSBA, in consultation with QFES North Coast Region and the Queensland Government Accommodation Office in the Department of Housing and Public Works, is investigating options for temporary accommodation for the QFES office functions, which includes any vacancy within government owned buildings and leased options on the market. Whilst options are being investigated, a lease is not able to be established until the proposal is approved and subsequently a program confirmed.

I have been informed that a representative of PSBA has made contact with the caretaker of the former St Stephen's Hospital site and this option will be further explored to determine its suitability, in particular the costs involved to QFES in order to enable the site to be used for temporary office accommodation.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop that starts on the left, goes up and over, and ends on the right.

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

28 / / / 2020

QFD RTI FINAL RELEASE