



Rachel Nolan MP

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Funding for new ambulance station announced

More than \$4 million in funding for a new Ipswich ambulance station was announced today by Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts.

Mr Roberts said the project was part of the Bligh Government's \$19.2 million Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) capital works program this financial year.

"By investing in new and replacement ambulance stations across the state, we are not only delivering state-of-the-art facilities for our emergency services personnel, but also creating jobs for Queenslanders during these tough financial times," Mr Roberts said.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan and Member for Ipswich West Wayne Wendt welcomed the funding, which would provide local QAS staff with a state-of-the-art facility to meet the demands of a rapidly increasing local population.

"This new station will replace the current Ipswich and Raceview stations, which have outgrown fleet and staffing requirements," Ms Nolan said.

"The facility, which is expected to be completed by mid-2010, and will be more functional than the stations it replaces," she said.

"It is much larger and features housing for all vehicles, a modern kitchen, and relief quarters for staff.

"The station is also fitted with environmentally friendly features including water tanks for toilets, vehicle washing and irrigation, and a heat pump instead of the normal hot water system," said Mr Wendt.

"Today's announcement further ensures that the people of Ipswich have access to professional medical care and services."

"As the local Member, I will continue to make representations to the Emergency Services Minister on behalf of the community, to ensure services in our area keep up with our growing population," Ms Nolan said.

QAS South Eastern Region Assistant Commissioner Jayne Barnes said the new station would be warmly welcomed by QAS Ipswich staff.

"The new facility has been designed to meet the demands of a station located in one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland," Ms Barnes said.

"Staff can look forward to working in an environment that is purpose built to support them in the critical services they provide to our communities"

Ms Barnes said Ipswich station responded to 7379 Code 1 responses in the 2008-2009 financial year, 7559 Code 2 responses and 463 Code 3 responses.

The new station will also be home to the Ipswich Patient Transport Service, which responded to almost 4000 calls during the 2008-2009 financial year.

Ipswich station currently operates 14 ambulances and five patient transport vehicles with 60 paramedics.

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