Rachel Nolan MP

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New firefighters to benefit Ipswich communities

Three new Queensland Fire and Rescue officers have been allocated to Ipswich just in time for the beginning of bushfire season. Member for Ipswich West Wayne Wendt and Member for Ipswich Rachael Nolan welcomed the announcement and said the new officers would play an important role in keeping residents in Ipswich and its surrounds safe and secure.

“Local firefighters work in difficult circumstances and it’s great to have another three of these hardworking professionals on the frontline in our community,” Mr Wendt said.

“These officers have completed the high quality recruit course developed by the QFRS and in doing so have gained a Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting and Emergency Operations).”

“They’ve developed a strong knowledge base and practical skills in the areas of fire behaviour, wildfire, road crash rescue, technical rescue and hazardous materials response and will form a vital element of Queensland’s overall emergency response.”

“Our firies are among the most highly qualified in the country and we are fortunate to have more officers in the field where they are most needed.”

Ms Nolan said the new officers were part of the Bligh Government’s Budget commitment to fund places for an additional 24 officers this financial year.

“The Bligh Government continues to work in conjunction with our emergency services organizations like the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service towards safer communities” Ms Nolan said.

“This year alone we increased the QFRS budget by $35 million to nearly $468 million, which included funding for new and replacement stations, vehicles and equipment.

"These new firefighters follow the Bligh Government's recent announcement that two new fire stations will be built in Ipswich - one at Brassall and one at Ripley."

The new firefighters are expected to become operational in the community by the end of next week.

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