

A strong voice for our future

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

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More firefighters for 7-day Yeppoon station

An additional five permanent fire recruits will help boost the operation capacity of the Yeppoon Fire and Rescue Station.

Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said the new recruits would deliver on a Palaszczuk Government election commitment.

"Fire has had a devastating impact on our community, and I want to thank firefighters who have put their lives on the line," Ms Lauga said

"Five new permanent recruits will enable Yeppoon Fire and Rescue station to move to a seven-day operation with Auxiliary firefighters also on standby.

She said the additional officers would now cut response times by up to five minutes, which is a sizeable improvement in the fight against quick-moving fires.

"The Palaszczuk Government made a commitment to extra firefighters for Yeppoon and that's exactly what we're delivering.

"It's an investment in the safety of our community."

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford said Yeppoon was one of eight locations to receive new recruits.

"Fire and Rescue officer numbers have been boosted significantly with 91 new firefighter roles now allocated across Queensland.

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"This latest round not only delivers new frontline fire services for Yeppoon, but also Coolum and Port Douglas.

"Coolum's Fire and Rescue station will be beefed up from an Auxiliary Station to a five-day permanent day shift facility with the addition of five new, fully-trained fire fighters.

"An extra four firefighters will head to Port Douglas to deliver a five-day permanent day shift station with backup from Auxiliaries.

"The remaining nine recruits will be dispatched to the new stations in coming months to deliver on the Palaszczuk Government's election commitment in its entirety.

"It's recognition of the increase in fire activity in Yeppoon, Port Douglas and Coolum."

QFES Commissioner Greg Leach said Auxiliary firefighters will continue to play an important role in their local communities.

"I would like to thank our Auxiliary firefighters who continue to serve these communities very well and the permanent staff will support these important on-call personnel in their ongoing contribution to delivery of vital services to their community," Mr Leach said.

The allocated permanent roles are expected to be on shift in the identified communities no later than November 2020.

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