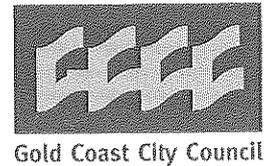


Date: 24 August 2011
Contact: Mr W Day
Location: Varsity Lakes
Telephone: (07) [REDACTED]
Your Reference: CS287/298/-(P10)
Our Reference:



Justice CE Holmes
Commissioner
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry
GPO Box 1738
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Commissioner

Request for information about Gold Coast City Council's support of the local State Emergency Service

I refer to your correspondence of 19 August 2011, in which you requested Gold Coast City Council to provide information regarding Council's support of the local State Emergency Service. As the SES Support Program is administered by the Engineering Services Directorate, the Chief Executive Officer has requested that I respond to your request on his behalf.

The management of the local Gold Coast State Emergency Service Unit is a joint responsibility between Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) and Gold Coast City Council. Generally, while EMQ provides for the policy and operational framework of the Service, Council provides the logistical support to ensure that the volunteer members have sufficient facilities, plant and equipment to perform their agreed roles.

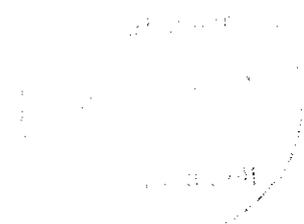
As requested, the following information outlines this support by Gold Coast City Council, and as can be seen by the level of support provided, Council values the SES and the important role volunteers play in assisting our community to respond to disaster events.

If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact myself or Mr [REDACTED], Executive Coordinator Disaster Management, on [REDACTED], who will also be pleased to assist.

[REDACTED]
Yours faithfully
[REDACTED]

Mr Warren Day
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES
for the Chief Executive Officer

Enc



10

Support by Gold Coast City Council to the Gold Coast City State Emergency Service Unit:

Information requested by the Commissioner of Inquiry, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Background to local administrative arrangements

The management of the local Gold Coast City State Emergency Service Unit is a joint responsibility between Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) and Gold Coast City Council.

In general, while EMQ provides for the policy and operational framework of the Service, Council's role is focussed on the provision of facilities, plant and equipment for the Unit's volunteer members to perform their agreed roles.

Within the Gold Coast local government area, there is a single SES Unit, which is divided into six groups. The groups are located at Pimpama, Southport, Runaway Bay, Carrara, Coolangatta and Springbrook.

While groups provide "forward command posts" from which local responses can be despatched, the Unit is administered as a single organisation.

In accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Local Controller is responsible for the local day-to-day operational management of the Unit, with support from EMQ and Gold Coast City Council.

Council's support of the local SES is managed by Council's Disaster Management Unit, which is provided with a budget to support SES operations. The Disaster Management Unit is also the asset custodian for those assets allocated for use by the City's SES groups.

1. Membership of Gold Coast State Emergency Service Unit

Under current operating practices, Emergency Management Queensland is responsible for maintaining SES membership records. As such the Commissioner's question regarding current levels of membership was referred to EMQ for advice.

EMQ has advised that the Gold Coast City State Emergency Service had 352 members as at 12 August 2011.

Please refer inquiries regarding historical records of membership to Emergency Management Queensland.

2. Equipment and facilities provided by Council

Gold Coast City Council provides a significant amount of assets to support the operations of the local SES.

As the asset owner, Council provides for the maintenance, operating costs, repair and replacement of these assets.

Please refer to Annexure 1 for a list of the equipment items and facilities provided by Gold Coast City Council for operational use by the Gold Coast City State Emergency Service.

3. Staff employed by Council in SES positions on a fulltime basis

Council does not employ a fulltime staff member to specifically support the SES, and has not done so since 31 August 2009.

Council's Disaster Management Unit, which has six fulltime staff, provides support for managing the assets used by the SES.

4. A description of functional roles undertaken by the Gold Coast SES unit

In accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Chief Executive of the Department of Community Safety has advised Council of the functions to be undertaken by the Gold Coast SES Unit. These functions were determined in consultation with Council.

These functions relate to

- Agency support
- Community education
- Floodboat operations
- Incident management
- Search
- Special rescue
- Storm response
- Traffic management
- Vertical rescue

Please refer to Annexure 2 for a the list of agreed functions and associated membership requirement.

The operational requirement of each function is managed by EMQ and documented within the EMQ SES Doctrine.

Specific inquiries relating to operational functions of the Gold Coast City SES Unit should be directed to EMQ.

5. Form, amount and purpose of funding provided in support of the SES

Gold Coast City Council has provided significant amounts of funding to support the local State Emergency Service with both capital and operational funding.

In 2009-2010, Council provided \$ 308,228.

In 2010-2011, Council provided \$ 211,376.

Please refer to Annexure 3 for detail of Council's budget allocations for SES support.

Annexure 1: Equipment provided by Gold Coast City Council in support of the Gold Coast City State Emergency Service

This support includes:

- Facilities
 - Coolangatta SES group building
 - Carrara SES group building
 - Springbrook SES group building
 - Southport SES group building and stand alone storage shed
 - Runaway Bay SES group building
 - Pimpama SES group building
 - 6 Monitored alarm systems and phone lines
- Fleet items
 - Vehicles
 - Coolangatta – Holden Rodeo 4x4 and Landcruiser Ute 4x4
 - Carrara – 2x Holden Rodeo 4x4, Ford Ranger 4x4 and Isuzu Truck (includes Local Controller vehicle)
 - Springbrook – Holden Rodeo 4x4
 - Southport – 2 x Holden Rodeo 4x4, 11 seater Hiace bus, 22 seater Coaster bus, Coaster bus for forward command
 - Runaway Bay – 2 x Holden Rodeo 4x4
 - Pimpama – Ford Ranger 4x4 and Landcruiser Wagon 4x4
 - Trailers
 - Coolangatta – generator trailer
 - Carrara – box trailer and sandbagging trailer, small welfare trailer, rescue trailer
 - Southport – large welfare trailer, generator trailer, flatbed trailer, storm damage trailer, tandem trailer, Mobile port-a-loo, box trailer
 - Runaway Bay – box trailer
 - Pimpama - box caged trailer, rescue trailer
 - Flood boats
 - 6 Flood boats and trailers (1 per group), provided to Council by EMQ
- Small Plant
 - Coolangatta – 2 chainsaws, 3 generators, pressure washer
 - Carrara – 4 chainsaws, 1 pole saw, 3 generators, 2 pressure washers
 - Springbrook – 1 chainsaw, 2 generators
 - Southport – 4 chainsaws, 1 pole saw, 3 generators, 1 pressure washer
 - Runaway Bay – 2 chainsaws, 2 pole saws, 2 generators, 1 pressure washer

- Pimpama – 2 chainsaws, 2 pole saws, 3 generators, 1 pressure washer
- Information and Communications Technology Equipment
 - 11 PCs desktop (1 per group, 1 Local Controller, 3 HQ)
 - 3 Printers (Carrara, Coolangatta and Local Controller)
 - 6 Multifunctional devices
 - 15 Landline and phones (1 per group, 1 Local Controller and 8 HQ)
 - 7 fax lines (1 per group and 1 HQ. Faxes are linked to multifunctional devices)
 - 6 modems and lines (1 per group)
 - 13 Mobile Phones (1 per group, 1 Local Controller, 1 Deputy Controller, 3 HQ, 1 Duty Officer, 1 satellite phone)
 - 9 pagers (1 per group, Local Controller, Deputy Controller)
- Sundry items
 - Stationery consumable
 - Small hand tools (eg, hammers, shovels)
 - Personal repellants and sunscreens
 - Cleaning items

Annexure 2: Agreed SES functions for Gold Coast City SES and associated membership requirement

Region	Local Government Area	SES Unit	SES Unit Group	SES FUNCTIONS <i>(Minimum members required per Function)</i>										Optimal Number of Members
				Agency Support	Community Education	Flood/Boat Operations	Incident Management	Road Crash Rescue	Search	Special Rescue	Storm Response	Traffic Management	Vertical Rescue	
South East	Gold Coast City Council	Gold Coast		Pimpama	2	8	12	0	36	12	36	9	0	50
				Runaway Bay	2	8	12	0	36	12	36	9	0	50
				Southport	2	8	50	0	36	12	36	9	0	50
				Springbrook	2	0	8	0	12	12	18	9	16	20
				Coolangatta	2	8	12	0	36	12	36	9	0	50
				Carrara	2	8	12	0	36	12	36	9	0	50
TARGET NUMBER OF MEMBERS TRAINED IN THE FUNCTION				128	40	108	0	192	72	198	54	18	270	
TOTAL OPTIMAL MEMBERS FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA				Optimal Number of Members per Group will differ to the total of Minimum Members required per Function per Group as some members will be trained in and perform multiple Functions.										270

Local Government Representative

Regional Director (on behalf of the Executive Director, EMQ)

Signature _____ Date 15/01/2009

Signature _____ Date 16/01/2009

Annexure 3: Funding provided by Gold Coast City Council in support of the SES

Cost Centre / Function	Description	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
1620 - SES Operations			
Revenue Naturals			
4600	Contributions and Donations Received	4600	4600
Revenue Naturals Total :		4600	4600
Projects			
E179	Vehicle RunningCost	95000	65000
E180	SES Training&Equipment Mtce	11000	11000
E181	SESOperations/Communications	48400	27300
E183	SES Building Mtce	23600	82216
ED15	SES Communications	30000	30000
ED16	SES Welfare	15000	5000
EH88	SES Security Audit	0	4460
Project Totals :		223000	224976
1961 - SES Capital Projects			293000
Revenue Naturals			
4301	Proceeds From Sale	35000	18000
4810	Subsidies - Other	62000	31000
		97000	49000
Projects			
E454	PurchaseSES Vehicles	128000	0
E649	Internal Equip SES Buildings	15000	15000
Project Totals :		133000	15000
1962 - DMU Capital Projects			
Projects			
EH18	SES - Forward Planning	25000	25000
		25000	25000
Local Controller (Salary and Vehicle)*			
6102 - ES Mgt and Admin			
Projects			
E335	CC335-Oncosted Labour	25334*	0
		25334*	0
0501 - Cost Centre Plant Overhead			
Projects			
335P	CC335 Cost Centre Plant	3494	0
		3494	0

Revised Operational Expenditure Budget	251828	224976
Revised Operational Revenue Budget	(4600)	(4600)
Revised Capital Expenditure Budget	158000	40000
Revised Capital Revenue Budget	(97000)	(49000)
Nett Budget SES	308228	211376

Note:

* - Payment made in 2009-2010 for final payments of Local Controller position. On 12 September 2009, Council resolved to reclassify the position to a volunteer position to align with EMQ SES Doctrine.

