



SUPPORTING OUR EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

**Funding Grants for
Vital Equipment and Supplies**

**A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will provide
greater funding certainty to our hard-working emergency volunteers**

The Problem

Our hard-working volunteer organisations receive partial government assistance but rely significantly on community support and generosity to provide the services Queenslanders rely upon in an emergency event, like a natural disaster.

Organisations such as the State Emergency Service (SES), Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR), Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ), Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and St John Ambulance Queensland rely on donations and local fundraising to purchase new equipment and enhance local facilities. Thousands of emergency service volunteers give up time with family and friends to help Queenslanders.

Queensland experiences extreme weather events and it is important we provide our volunteer organisations with the equipment and facilities when they need to deliver emergency services.

Our Record

In government, the LNP appointed a dedicated Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers in recognition of their important and unique role in Queensland.

We also reformed the way in which rural fire services were provided through the Malone report, appointed a dedicated Assistant Commissioner and fully funded rural fire brigade equipment, communications and training.

These investments benefit residents through quicker responses to emergency events and helping people in their time of need.

Our Real Plan

A Tim Nicholls-led LNP Government will establish a dedicated \$10 million Emergency Volunteers Fund, where organisations can apply for and receive assistance to improve local community resilience and maintain or increase capacity.

The fund will be rolled out over three years and consists of two key elements:

1. Equipment Upgrade and Replacement (\$6.8 million over three years)

200 x \$25,000 grants under the Major Equipment fund over 5 funding rounds, and

360 x \$5,000 grants under the Minor Equipment fund over 5 funding rounds.

2. Build Capacity and Improve Resilience (\$3.2 million over three years)

40 x \$50,000 grants under the Minor Improvements Fund over 3 funding rounds, and

12 x \$100,000 grants under the Major Improvements Fund over 3 funding rounds

Funding will need to be applied for, either by local brigades or squadrons or on behalf of state organisations. Each grant is paid for and acquitted through Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and will be for a specified amount that is verifiable.

Only the LNP has a plan to provide safe and liveable communities and ensure our hard-working emergency volunteers have the funds they need to keep Queenslanders safe.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Didn't the Government increase funding in the recent budget?

No. The Government is simply bringing forward funding under a fleet replacement program for rural fire brigade vehicles, from 2019/20 and 2020/21 to 2017/18 and 2018/19. This is not new funding, it is simply accelerating a program that was already in existence. This funding only supports replacing ageing vehicles in the rural fire service fleet.

What are some examples of items that could be funded under the LNP's program?

- A new Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) is valued at around \$18,000, a vital tool for rescuing stranded swimmers off our coastline.
- A new slip on unit is valued at \$6250 for the rural fire service (pictured).



What organisations will receive assistance through this fund?

Emergency service volunteer organisations will not be limited, but the fund will predominantly apply to the State Emergency Service (SES), Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ), Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), Volunteer Marine Rescue Queensland (VMRQ), Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG) and St John Ambulance Australia, Queensland branch.

How many emergency volunteers are there in Queensland?

These organisations only exist because of the spirit of generosity and mateship of Queenslanders.

- The SES has over 300 crews across the state.
- The RFSQ has more than 1400 volunteer brigades with more than 36,000 volunteers. They also have 436 fire stations, 975 rural trucks and slip on units. They service 93% of the state.
- SLSQ has 58 clubs across the state and in 2015/16 performed 3660 rescues and 810,855 preventative actions. They have more than 30,000 members
- VMRQ has 25 affiliated squadrons throughout Queensland operating in tropical and sub-tropical waters from the southern border to Thursday Island and the Gulf. Last year they dealt with 14000 callouts and 182 rescues. They have 1500 trained volunteers.
- AVCG is the largest volunteer marine rescue organisation in Australia. AVCG provides marine rescue and education services from squadrons across the country, including 22 in Queensland.
- St John have 2000 volunteer members and are Queensland's leading first aid training provider.

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**Together, Let's
Build a Better
Queensland**