

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1577**  
**Asked on 16 October 2019**

**MR D LAST** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the current number of qualified auxiliary fire fighters, broken down by station, in the Burdekin Electorate (currently and for the same period in 2018 and 2017)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has 10 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) stations within the Burdekin Electorate, as follows:

- Ayr FRS (permanent and auxiliary);
- Bowen FRS (permanent and auxiliary);
- Clermont FRS (auxiliary);
- Collinsville FRS (auxiliary);
- Dysart FRS (auxiliary);
- Giru FRS (auxiliary);
- Glenden FRS (auxiliary);
- Home Hill FRS (auxiliary);
- Middlemount FRS (auxiliary); and
- Moranbah FRS (auxiliary).

The breakdown of Auxiliary full-time equivalent and headcount figures by station as at 30 September 2019, 30 September 2018 and 30 September 2017 are shown in **Attachment A**.

The breakdown of Auxiliary and Firefighting paid full-time equivalent and headcount figures by station as at 30 September 2019, 30 September 2018 and 30 September 2017 are shown in **Attachment B**.

Auxiliary Firefighters are represented as an average of 0.1 of a full-time equivalent (FTE) each due to the on-call nature of their employment and variation of actual hours worked.

At any point in time, there are a mix of available resources for firefighting activity.

Auxiliary firefighters are members of the public who are prepared to be trained as firefighters and respond to emergencies in their community. Auxiliary firefighter numbers fluctuate for a range of reasons including resignation, retirement, work commitments, changes in peoples' circumstances and the increasing demand on peoples' time in general. Recruitment and retention are continuous issues in many communities.

QFES undertake a range of activities to attract members of the community to become Auxiliary firefighters. These include but are not limited to:

- Ability for potential applicants to either apply for vacant positions or register their interest in specific stations via QFES external facing website;
- Continuous advertising on QFES Careers site (Nexus);
- Social media activities including channels such as LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook and Work180;
- Providing opportunities to gain access to closed-merit firefighter recruitment processes if pursuing permanent employment long-term;
- Local media advertising through both radio and newspaper, targeting specific townships;
- QFES signage placed at key locations within townships;
- Face-to-face interactions at key locations with community members, including shops and community hubs;
- Community meetings;
- Letterbox drops;
- Direct contact with significant government employers such as the Department of Education and Training (school staff) and Local Government (council depots); and
- Developing flexible Auxiliary Recruit Training Education Program (ARTEP) delivery to suit local communities e.g. courses delivered over a number of weekends as opposed to weekdays.

I am advised by the Acting Commissioner that QFES has appropriate resourcing to adequately deliver its services to the highest possible standards in the Burdekin electorate.

## Attachment A

The following table shows the Auxiliary paid FTE and headcount of staff in the Burdekin Electorate broken down by FRS:

Station	Staffing Function	30/09/17		30/09/18		30/09/19	
		Paid FTE	Paid Headcount	Paid FTE	Paid Headcount	Paid FTE	Paid Headcount
Ayr	Auxiliary	0.7	7	0.6	6	0.8	8
Bowen	Auxiliary	1.2	12	1.2	12	1	10
Clermont	Auxiliary	1.3	13	1.5	15	1.4	14
Collinsville	Auxiliary	1	10	1	10	0.8	8
Dysart	Auxiliary	1.2	12	1.4	14	1.1	11
Giru	Auxiliary	0.7	7	0.6	6	0.4	4
Glenden	Auxiliary	0.9	9	1.1	11	0.8	8
Home Hill	Auxiliary	1	10	0.9	9	1	10
Middlemount	Auxiliary	0.9	9	0.8	8	1.2	12
Moranbah	Auxiliary	2	20	2	20	1.9	19
<b>Burdekin Electorate</b>		<b>10.9</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>104</b>

Auxiliary firefighters represent 0.1 of an FTE.

## Attachment B

The following table shows the actual paid FTE and paid headcount of Firefighting and Auxiliary staff in the Burdekin Electorate broken down by FRS:

Station	Staffing Function	30/09/17		30/09/18		30/09/19	
		Paid FTE	Paid Headcount	Paid FTE	Paid Headcount	Paid FTE	Paid Headcount
Ayr	Auxiliary	0.7	7	0.6	6	0.8	8
Ayr	Firefighting	9	9	9	9	10	10
Bowen	Auxiliary	1.2	12	1.2	12	1	10
Bowen	Firefighting	9	9	9	9	10	10
Clermont	Auxiliary	1.3	13	1.5	15	1.4	14
Collinsville	Auxiliary	1	10	1	10	0.8	8
Dysart	Auxiliary	1.2	12	1.4	14	1.1	11
Giru	Auxiliary	0.7	7	0.6	6	0.4	4
Glenden	Auxiliary	0.9	9	1.1	11	0.8	8
Home Hill	Auxiliary	1	10	0.9	9	1	10
Middlemount	Auxiliary	0.9	9	0.8	8	1.2	12
Moranbah	Auxiliary	2	20	2	20	1.9	19
<b>Burdekin Electorate</b>		<b>28.9</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>124</b>

Auxiliary firefighters represent 0.1 of an FTE.