

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Territory Fire and Road Trauma Emergency Services

1. What strategies were implemented across the Territory in 2004/2005 so that the capacity of Agencies to respond to fire threats and road trauma was increased?

ANSWER

From a NTES perspective, an innovative initiative, in relation to the reduction of road trauma, was the establishment, in May 2005, of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Post at Kings Canyon and the entrance to Watarrka National Park.

The Post is manned by a permanent Emergency Service Officer who provides first response to the many road traffic accidents on the Luritja and Mereenie Loop roads in conjunction with the newly established Watarrka Emergency Service Volunteer Unit. The Post is fully equipped for road accident rescue duties and response to vertical rescue events occurring at Kings Canyon. Since establishment, the Post has dealt with a variety of accidents and incidents involving injured and lost persons and, additionally, acts as a liaison point for counter disaster response and wildfire incidents in the Watarrka area.

Strategies implemented in 2004/2005 were:

- **Safer Communities**
 - Development of a two year Community Safety Strategy.
 - Development of a four year Fire Reduction Strategy.
 - A Juvenile Fire Awareness Program was implemented to counsel children who exhibit fire lighting behaviour.
 - A review into the response capabilities at Yulara and Kings Canyon was carried out. As a result of this review, a permanent NTES officer was established at Kings Canyon along with a road accident rescue capability.
 - A new fire station was opened at Humpty Doo. This station is crewed by permanent fire officers.
 - The Hazard Abatement Officer's duties were reviewed. This officer now provides hazard abatement services to all NTFRS emergency response areas.
 - Establishment of a Volunteer Manager position to improve services and provide greater support to volunteer brigades in remote and isolated communities.
 - An increase in permanent staff at Yulara, Katherine and Tennant Creek fire stations.
 - Increase in fire response equipment at Yulara with the commissioning of an additional grass fire unit to the station.
 - New fire tanker commissioned at Alice Springs Fire Station.

▪ **Road Accident Rescue**

- New rescue trucks commissioned at Yulara and Katherine.
- Establishment of a road accident rescue capability at Kings Canyon.
- Upgrading of road accident rescue equipment for NTES Units and Fire and Emergency Response Groups.
- Heavy rescue equipment was commissioned at Katherine and Alice Springs.