



Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref No: 2024/12267 JK
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17 DEC 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your correspondence regarding Petition 4091-24 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024.

I appreciate the petitioners' concerns and have asked the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for advice in relation to this matter so that I can be better informed about the issue raised.

I am advised by the QPS that, in 2018, the Commissioner for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) commissioned a review of the delivery of search and rescue services across Queensland by two volunteer associations namely Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA). This review was intended to provide a catalyst for change for the delivery of sustainable and effective volunteer services into the future.

The findings of this review included that there was a lack of consistency across units, a clear need for a statewide review of capability and risk across marine services and potentially significant benefits to be gained from optimising purchasing, communications and operational delivery across the State.

In July 2021 the Queensland Government commissioned an independent review of QFES to examine the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of its volunteer entities. This review provided a number of recommendations which included that the QPS would have primary responsibility for disaster response and coordination and the establishment of a single marine rescue entity to be created within the disaster and emergency management portfolio within the QPS.

The Queensland Government accepted these recommendations and established Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) through the *Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024*. The transition of units to the newly formed organisation has commenced.

I appreciate the petitioners have raised concerns and I have considered those along with the clear statewide benefits to be gained from establishing MRQ and the ongoing transition of units to MRQ will deliver better marine rescue services for the boating community across Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should your office require further information, Ms Bianca Stone, Chief of Staff, is available on (07) 3719 7150.

Yours sincerely



Dan Purdie MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services