

Emergency Service Volunteers — update February 2016

Transcript

Hello, I'm Mike Wassing. I'm your Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Service Volunteers.

I'm excited to be here as part of the broader team of Queensland Fire Emergency Services as your deputy commissioner, but also with Peter Jeffrey as the assistant commissioner for State Emergency Service and Tom Dawson as the assistant commissioner for Rural Fire Service.

Our job is to support you and to build upon the skills that you have based on the risks within your community.

We need to have a greater focus on risk-based decision making to understand what our communities need in support and to understand what you need in terms of your training, resourcing, equipment, policies and procedures-- basically, anything that we need to support you in doing your job as good as you can or better.

I've been fortunate to visit each of our seven regions since I've been appointed as deputy commissioner, but I want to continue that as an ongoing engagement with you - as our front-line staff and volunteers.

I also want to build on centres of excellence - help you identify local solutions to your local problems. And in support of that, utilize the skills within our state, region, and area teams to support you in doing that.

One of the key pieces of work that we need to do to be better at into the future is a volunteerism strategy for Queensland.

The volunteerism strategy will look at not only at the important values of respect and recognition of volunteers, but also what our volunteering network, recruitment, retention, and training plans look like into the future - as we change within our communities and as a state.

I recognize, value, and respect the fantastic work that our volunteers are doing in the field with their communities before, during and after disasters.

I've got a great team at state, region, and area level that will continue to support you in doing what you do best and to continue to improve and identify local solutions for your local problems.





I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the associations of Rural Fire and the State Emergency Service, as well as other emergency service volunteer groups that create such a powerful and wonderful capacity and capability within Queensland.

Being part of QFES provides a huge amount of support. I want to better understand your issues and challenges and those of our partners so we can best direct that support into the future.

I'm really enjoying being here in Queensland. It's exciting and there's great opportunities. But there's also challenges and we're not always going to agree.

But I'm looking forward to continuing to travel the state and meeting as many people as possible.

