



UNITED  
**FIRE  
FIGHTERS  
UNION**  
QUEENSLAND

Thursday 9 July 2020

Mr Greg Leach  
Commissioner  
Queensland Fire and Emergency Service

Delivered via email: *Commissioner@qfes.qld.gov.au*  
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Dear Commissioner

**Re: Impact of COVID-19 on QFRS response capacity**

COVID-19's ongoing impact on Queensland's economy and (based on today's (09 July 2020) announcements by the Queensland Treasurer and Premier) what is obviously an unavoidable reduction in, and cuts to, funding for QFES, causes me to hold concerns for the capacity of QFES to continue to ensure full ongoing funding for QFRS actual operational capacity.

Given these extraordinary economic circumstances, it is apparent that any dollar QFES is spending that is not directly spent on firefighters, fire appliances, and fire stations (actual capacity needs and capacity building, and both existing and emerging operational response needs) is a waste of Queensland's financial resources.

Any funding for work performed by QFES not directly contributing to QFRS actual existing and emerging response needs is unnecessary and that funding needs to be redirected immediately. To assist you, I suggest that any of the confected 'frontline support' work so prevalent in QFES that is not within the current Readiness and Response Services (QFRS) section of QFES must be critically evaluated for its relevance directly to existing and emergent operational response requirements (simply, more firefighters, more appliances and more stations are needed now).

I seek that you articulate to the UFUQ, so as to provide assurance to firefighters and fire communication officers, what you are immediately ceasing or cancelling with regard to the expenditure of QFES on works that are irrelevant to firefighters, fire appliances, and fire stations.

I look forward to your response and request you provide me with the assurances necessary to inform UFUQ members by close of business Friday 17 July 2020.

Regards

**John Oliver**  
General Secretary