

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fire Safety Upgrade for Ekka Accommodation

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) is pleased to see that fire safety recommendations made to the management of the Royal National Association (RNA) showgrounds have been implemented in time for this year's EKKA show.

Following inspections and the identification of fire hazards by QFRS just prior to the 2004 show, the RNA engaged the services of fire engineers **Arup** who recommended an upgrade of fire safety in the cattle pavilion and other accommodation buildings in the showgrounds which house up to 1246 people during the show.

QFRS Assistant Commissioner of Brisbane Region Iain MacKenzie said he was pleased to see the implementation of the recommendations which offered significant improvement to the safety of occupants.

"The fire engineers **Arup** supported the QFRS position that all sleeping accommodation above ground was unsafe and significant improvements were needed," Assistant Commissioner MacKenzie said.

"It has been a challenging process to establish the most effective way to upgrade buildings of such diverse age, use and construction, and I believe this is the first time such an upgrade has been undertaken in Queensland."

The RNA has allocated \$2.3million to the project and is committed to the upgrade of all accommodation buildings in the showground.

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Queensland Government
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