

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.07 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the fantastic efforts of our dedicated State Emergency Service volunteers. Our SES volunteers have once again done a tremendous job in responding to more than 80 requests for assistance during the recent storm that impacted the Western Australian coast on Sunday, 9 August 2020. The size of the storm front saw SES volunteers assisting people from Geraldton all the way down the south coast to Albany. The Perth metropolitan area experienced most of the impact, with roofs damaged, large trees falling on homes and driveways, and general water ingress damage and minor flooding. The SES helped with temporary roof repairs, securing damaged structures, clearing fallen trees and debris clean-up, often during heavy downpours of rain, in flooded areas and windy, blustery conditions. I am sure that everyone in this house will join me in thanking every one of those volunteers who put their own lives on hold to help their local communities.

This is also a reminder that storms are the most common natural hazard in Australia. Winter storms in May to October include tornados, lightning, hail, flash flooding and gale force winds that cause major destruction to the southern half of Western Australia. As storms are unpredictable and localised, their devastating impact can sometimes be underestimated. Storms cause damage to homes, property and businesses, and they also pose a threat to people, animals and the natural environment. The best defence against storm damage is getting a property ready early. I encourage everyone to prepare their properties before a storm hits and to be storm safe. For more information about how to stay storm safe, people should visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website. It is also important to stay up to date during a storm by visiting www.emergency.wa.gov.au and calling 13 DFES.

On behalf of all Western Australians, I acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of all our emergency services personnel who continue to dedicate their time and skills for our community.