

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.06 pm]: I rise to inform the house about the outstanding achievements of our emergency services personnel who have recently been awarded the prestigious Australian Fire Service Medal and Emergency Services Medal in the Australia Day honours list. The Australian Fire Service Medal and the Emergency Services Medal are awarded to a volunteer or career member of an Australian fire or emergency service who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the safety of our community. I am sure that all members will join me in acknowledging their distinguished service.

Recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal include Mr Mark Bowen from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, who was recognised for more than 33 years of improving the way WA manages bushfires. During his time, Mark has excelled, especially in his current position within the Rural Fire Division. He continues to improve the way the state addresses rural fire management. Mark's leadership skills have made him one of the most experienced officers on the fireground and he is one of only a small number of level 3 incident controllers in WA. Mr Richard Lawrey, AFSM, is from the Mundaring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and was recognised for his 45 years of services to the community as a volunteer firefighter; the majority of those years spent in Mundaring. Richard has been instrumental in a number of positive changes in the Shire of Mundaring, with the introduction of a purpose-built, structural firefighting appliance, and the establishment of the Mundaring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service among those achievements.

Turning to the Emergency Services Medal, Mr Ronald "Tex" McPherson, a State Emergency Service volunteer, was recognised for his 30 years of dedication to emergency services in WA. Tex is an exceptional and highly respected leader, who has significant experience helping the community prepare for, and recover from, emergencies. He has been involved in hundreds of incidents from searching for missing people to floods, cyclones, storms and bushfires. Tex also spent time on Christmas Island and was part of the team that managed the response to the first recorded cyclone in the island's history.

Our emergency services personnel do extraordinary work in challenging situations. I acknowledge their ongoing dedication to the safety of the WA community and, in particular, congratulate these recent medal recipients.