

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY — DEFIBRILLATORS

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.57 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the McGowan Labor government's ongoing commitment to the safety of our state and support for our emergency services volunteers. We have recently delivered more than 800 lifesaving automated external defibrillators to bush fire brigades and State Emergency Service units across the state. Although some volunteer services already have these lifesaving devices, this is the first time that hundreds of volunteers will have access to portable defibrillators through the emergency services levy.

I am pleased to say that this \$1.4 million program has been completed, giving bush fire brigades and State Emergency Service units the equipment they need to help people in cardiac arrest and possibly save their lives. The program has provided 798 AEDs for State Emergency Service and bush fire brigade emergency response vehicles and appliances, 12 devices for SES all-terrain utility vehicles, and 18 for SES flood boats. The new AEDs come on top of those already stationed at emergency services facilities, and in vehicles, fire trucks and marine rescue vessels. This is another example of this government's commitment to genuine consultation with emergency services volunteers, and shows what we can achieve when we all work together to improve community safety.

In closing, on behalf of this government and the broader WA community, I would like to take this opportunity to once again acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of all our emergency services volunteers, from helping the community to prepare ahead of storms, to performing difficult search-and-rescue missions on land or at sea, to fighting fires on the frontline. I have travelled more than 91 000 kilometres across the state, and I am continually thankful to those who dedicate their skills to help the community.