

**STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE — VOLUNTEERS**

*Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services)** [12.09 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the fantastic efforts of our State Emergency Service volunteers during the severe weather event that impacted the Western Australian coast this week. The size and ferocity of the storm saw SES volunteers handle more than 500 requests for assistance, helping people from Exmouth all the way down the south coast, with 100 requests for help from the midwest–Gascoyne region. The storm caused widespread damage to homes and property and saw roofs lost from commercial buildings in Bedford, Canning Vale and St James, and fallen debris and flooding on many roads across the state.

We have more than 60 SES units, 41 of which were actively involved in the response. Our SES volunteers assisted with making temporary roof repairs, making safe structural damage, clearing fallen trees and cleaning up debris, often during heavy downpours of rain in flooded areas and in windy, blustery conditions. We also had a fantastic team of SES volunteers working behind the scenes, who answered calls from members of the public in extremely difficult circumstances. I am sure that everyone in this house will join me in thanking each and every one of these volunteers, who put their lives on hold to help local communities.

Finally, I wish to extend my gratitude to the residents of and visitors to Western Australia who heeded the warnings and prepared their properties ahead of the serious weather event. They stayed indoors and stayed out of the water—most of them—reducing the risk for other emergency service responders. In closing, on behalf of all Western Australians, I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of all of our emergency services personnel who continue to dedicate their time and skills for our community.