

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.06 pm]: Thank you very much indeed, commissioner.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What did you call me?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Commissioner!

The SPEAKER: Do I get more pay?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I think you do. I have got to stop having these meetings; I keep calling everyone commissioner!

Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about Wear Orange Wednesday, or “WOW Day”, held today to recognise our 2 000 State Emergency Service volunteers. This celebration turns our state a brilliant orange each year to remind us all of the excellent work of our highly skilled SES volunteers. SES volunteers are from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds. They dedicate their time, day and night, to help the community during natural hazards and other emergencies. In the past 12 months, SES volunteers have put their lives on hold to respond to more than 330 incidents and 1 500 requests for assistance. Their selfless dedication to the WA community is immeasurable and deserves our acknowledgement and thanks.

Volunteers assisted local communities during tropical cyclones Blake and Damien in the north west. They provided support during the major bushfires that affected Yanchep, Norseman and the Stirling Range. Volunteers have also conducted major land searches for missing people at Noreena Downs station, Bluff Knoll and Esperance. When storms hit the south west land division earlier this month, SES volunteers dropped everything to respond to more than 500 requests for assistance from Perth to Busselton over a 48-hour period. Our SES volunteers have also played an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic response by working alongside WA police at vehicle control points to protect our regions. They have also provided logistical and organisational support at the state health incident coordination centre.

Tonight, 16 iconic landmarks across the state, including Parliament House, will shine bright orange to recognise SES volunteers’ selfless commitment to helping others. On behalf of all Western Australians, I would like to thank our SES volunteers for their dedication and commitment to continuing to help keep the community safe.