

**FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — 2019–20 STATE BUDGET**

2506. Hon Colin de Grussa to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 397 – Statement of Cashflows (Controlled), specifically subsection “Cashflows from operating activities”, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister please provide a detailed breakdown of spending from the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) for:
  - (i) 2017–18;
  - (ii) 2018–19; and
  - (iii) the expected breakdown for 2019–20;
- (b) will the Minister please provide a detailed breakdown of costs in relation to the line item “Employee Benefits for 2019–20” including:
  - (i) the position title for each employee;
  - (ii) the pay level for each employee; and
  - (iii) the location from which each employee works;
- (c) will the Minister please provide a detailed breakdown of costs in relation to the line item “Grants and Subsidies 2019–20”;
- (d) of the “Grants and Subsidies” funding, why is there a notable decrease across the forward estimates;
- (e) will the Minister please provide the expected breakdown of costs in relation to the line item “Other Payments” for 2019–20;
- (f) what is the expected contribution from the ESL to the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy for:
  - (i) 2019–20; and
  - (ii) in total; and
- (g) for the subheading “Net Cash from operating activities”, will the Minister please explain why there is an expected significant decrease in 2021?

**Hon Stephen Dawson replied:**

- (a)
  - (i) 2017–18 \$355.7 million
  - (ii) 2018–19 \$390.6 million
  - (iii) 2019–20 \$407.8 million

For breakdown of ESL [See tabled paper no 3353.]

- (b) \$221,971. The breakdown of these costs are as follows:

<b>2019–20</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
District Allowances	547
Fringe Benefits Tax	852
Other Staffing Costs	4,459
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	189,985
Staff Travel	4,279
Superannuation	21,849
<b>Total</b>	<b>221,971</b>

(i)–(iii) [See tabled paper no 3353.]

Please note: the breakdown of employee benefits payments by position, pay level and location has not been provided as this includes allowances and overtime of which payment is dependent on operations and incidences that occur in the year. They are estimated in the budget as an aggregate and not against individual positions.

- (c) 2019–20 Detailed of Controlled Grants and Subsidies \$64.869 million as follows:

<b>2019–20</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
----------------	---------------

All West Australians Reducing Emergencies Program	200
ChemCentre – Emergency Response Services	1,500
Local Government – Community Emergency Service Managers	2,643
Local Government Emergency Services Grants	33,055
Natural Disaster Resilience Program	2,432
Other	2,063
Rural Fire Division – Bushfire Centre of Excellence Facility	1,310
Rural Fire Division – Bushfire Mitigation Activity Fund DPLH	928
Rural Fire Division – Bushfire Mitigation Activity ESL	11,190
Rural Fire Division – Bushfire Risk Management Planning	1,388
Shire of Gingin	700
Surf Life Saving Western Australia	1,381
Volunteer Fuel Card	1,070
Marine Rescue Service	5,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,869</b>

- (d) The decrease does not reflect an actual decrease, but rather a reported decrease in Grants and Subsidies receipts of \$4.650 million in 2022–23. This is the result of the funding from the Road Trauma Trust Fund for the South West Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service to be secured beyond 30 June 2021.
- (e) Expected breakdown of costs in relation to the line item “Other Payments” for 2019–20 in relation to \$37.060 million as follows:

<b>2019–20</b>	<b>\$’000</b>
Equipment repairs and maintenance	20,256
Riskcover Premiums	12,768
Administration	2,116
Audit Fees	1,086
Advertising and promotion	593
Non capital assets	146
Other payments	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,060</b>

- (f) Expected contribution from the ESL to the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

- (i) For 2019–20 \$24.082 million comprising:

<b>2019–20</b>	<b>\$’000</b>
Office of Bushfire Risk Management	1,218
Land Use Planning Services	579
Bushfire Technical Services	1,008
Bushfire Risk Management Planning	3,108
Bushfire Risk Management Bushfire Mitigation ESL	11,190
Bushfire Centre of Excellence	6,170
Rural Fire Executive	809
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,082</b>

- (ii) In total over the budget year and forward estimates period:

	<b>\$'000 2019–20</b>	<b>\$'000 2020–21</b>	<b>\$'000 2021–22</b>	<b>\$'000 2022–23</b>	<b>\$'000 Total</b>
Office of Bushfire Risk Management	1,218	1,229	1,241	1,253	<b>4,941</b>
Land Use Planning Services	579	583	588	593	<b>2,343</b>
Bushfire Technical Services	1,008	1,012	1,021	1,029	<b>4,070</b>
Bushfire Risk Management Planning	3,108	3,125	3,142	3,158	<b>12,533</b>
Bushfire Risk Management Bushfire Mitigation ESL	11,190	9,660	10,815	10,977	<b>42,642</b>
Bushfire Centre of Excellence	6,170	7,308	4,072	0	<b>17,550</b>
Rural Fire Executive	809	816	824	831	<b>3,280</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,082</b>	<b>23,733</b>	<b>21,703</b>	<b>17,841</b>	<b>87,359</b>

- (g) The decrease in the 'Net Cash from operating activities' is mainly attributable to:
- the payment of additional salaries of \$3.4 million in 2021–22 for the 53rd pay period; and
  - an additional \$4.5 million of payments against services and contracts that will be reclassified in subsequent budget processes within the cash flow statement.