

DARLING RANGE VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE — TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.06 pm]: I recently had the honour of joining the members, families and friends of the Darling Range Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to mark their twenty-fifth anniversary. The brigade reflected and celebrated a quarter of a century of protecting their community as well as the greater community of Western Australia. The Darling Range Bushfire Brigade has a strong and vibrant membership of 30 dedicated members who provide a lot more to the community than just front-line firefighting. They were pioneers in the concept of a forward control unit for communications in an area prone to radio black spots due to the terrain.

They are also equipped with an incident control vehicle able to deploy when needed to provide a vital hub for logistics, communications and control at a major incident and they also conduct regular training sessions with neighbouring brigades, sharing their years of local knowledge and experience. The Darling Range Bushfire Brigade is one of nine brigades spread across the Shire of Mundaring, with more than 500 members and 17 appliances in total, providing a pivotal link in the network of emergency services brigades that protect communities across Western Australia. Since its inception in 1988, the Darling Range Bushfire Brigade has continued to turn out time and time again to incidents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which is indicative of this selfless sense of community service and dedication that is mirrored in over 700 volunteer emergency service brigades across this state.

I would like to thank the brigade president, Max Williams, OAM, and members of the Darling Range Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, and congratulate them on reaching this wonderful milestone. I wish them the best of luck for the next 25 years, and I thank them for their ongoing service and the time they have committed to protecting the people of Mundaring and the people of Western Australia.