

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 1) I refer to the \$4.949 million allocated to 'personal protective equipment' on page 457 of Budget Paper 2 and I ask:
 - a) How many complete sets of Level 2 PPC will be allocated to:
 - i) Career Fire and Rescue firefighters;
 - ii) Volunteer Fire and Rescue firefighters; and
 - iii) Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services firefighters;
 - b) When will the PPC be deployed to each of the above-mentioned services;
 - c) Is any consideration being given to the suitability and modernity of level 1 PPC; and
 - d) Who will supply the Level 2 PPC and what procurement process has been utilised?

Answer:..

1(a) Based on the current number of Internal Structural Firefighting qualified personnel:

- i) 2,246 sets for Career Fire and Rescue firefighters (2 sets each)
- ii) 761 sets for Volunteer Fire and Rescue firefighters (1 set each)
- iii) 84 sets for Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services firefighters (1 set each)

(b) Final trials are underway. Pre-production activities and sizing are planned for November 2021 with roll-out thereafter.

(c) The current Level 1 PPC used by DFES across all fire services is considered contemporary, and complies with all relevant Australian and International Standards.

(d) Level 2 PPC will be supplied to DFES by Stuart & Heaton Clothing Co. as per the WA Department of Finance, Total Apparel Management Services Common User Agreement (CUATAM2016)

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

4. I refer to the media statement issued on 18 December 2020 titled: "McGowan Government's advocacy rewarded with Large Air Tanker for this bushfire season" and I ask:
- (a) How many operational flights did the LAT conduct during the 2020-21 bushfire season and what was the total cost of this aircraft;
 - (b) How many operational flights were conducted by LATs deployed from interstate during the 2020-21 bushfire season and what was the cost for these deployments;
 - (c) Has the Government secured the use of a LAT for the 2021-22 bushfire season;
 - (d) Has the Government secured contracts for the 2021-22 aerial fleet;
 - (e) If yes to (d). How many aircraft will be available and at what cost;
 - (f) Has a cost-effectiveness study been undertaken into waterbombing aircraft for the 2019-20 bushfire season;
 - (g) If yes to (f) please table the findings of this study; and
 - (h) Please detail the \$2.443 million cost for 'Large Aerial Tanker and Lead Aircraft' found in spending changes on page 457 of Budget Paper 2?

Answer: ...

- (a) The LAT which was based in WA during the 2021-22 bushfire season conducted 43 flights. Total standing charges for the LAT and lead aircraft for 90 days was \$2.543 million. \$2.443 million was reimbursed from the Federal Government.
- (b) The LATs which were deployed from interstate during the 2021-22 bushfire season conducted 21 flights. Total costs for the LATs and lead aircraft were \$902,577.
- (c -d) The State Government has secured contracts for the 2021-22 aerial fleet. The final configuration of the aerial fleet is underway in consideration of the operational needs of the State.
- (e) DFES will manage 12 aerial resources for the 2021-22 bushfire season. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions manages the Single Engine Air Tanker fleet.
- (f) No.
- (g) Not Applicable

- (h) The total standing charges of \$2.443 million was paid by DFES to the aircraft contractors. However, these expenses were reimbursed by NAFC at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. A contribution of \$100 000 was made by the WA State Government to assist with securing the resource.

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

6. I refer to page 186 of Budget Paper 3 and I ask:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the \$47,000 in 2020-21 for 'capital small commitment';
- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the \$242,000 listed on page 457 of Budget Paper 2 under 'small commitments';
- (c) What was the funding source for these expenditures; and
- (d) Please provide the criteria used to determine funding eligibility?

Answer: ...

(6)(a) \$47,000 for VFRS/VFES Capital Small Commitment comprises:

- Kalamunda VFRS - an all-weather canopy over the Rescue Training pad \$30,000
- Armadale VFRS – equipment \$7252
- Bullsbrook VFES - equipment and station upgrade \$10,000

(b) 'Small Commitments' for BFB/SES breakdown by recipient is:

Brigade Unit	Amount
Armadale SES - equipment	16,367
Quinns Rocks SES Cadets - safety equipment	50,000
Quinns Rocks Bush Fire Brigade - training equipment	50,000
Keysbrook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - washing machine	2,695
Bedforddale Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - picnic tables	5,000
Darling Range Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade - IT upgrades	1,600
Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - marquees	1,729
Bayswater State Emergency Service - shed	10,000
Chidlow Volunteer Bushfire Brigade - electronic sign	10,000
West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - standby generation and lockers	10,000
Sawyers Valley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - washdown facility	15,000
East Swan Volunteer Bushfire Brigade - upgrade and equipment	10,000
Mt Helena Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - shelving	10,000
East Gidgegannup VBFB - mobile female ablution block	10,000
Wooroloo Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade - equipment	10,000
Wanneroo Central Bush Fire Brigade - trailer	30,000

(c) This was funded through Consolidated Appropriation.

(d) This was a State Government election commitment to support emergency services volunteer brigade, groups and units in local communities.

Minister's initials

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. W.', written over a horizontal line.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

10. I refer to the spending changes tabled found on page 457 of Budget Paper 2 and I ask:

- (a) What explanation can be provided for the more than \$25 million increase in cost for 'RiskCover Insurance Premiums' across the forward estimates;
- (b) What has been the cost to date in providing compensation under the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Amendment Act 2013;
- (c) How many claims have been successful to date under this Act;
- (d) How many claims remain outstanding under this Act; and
- (e) Has the government contemplated or has it funded any expansion in the 12 prescribed cancers under the Act?

Answer: ...

- (a) The Government Insurance Division advises that there has been an Increase on premiums across the insurance industry.
- (b) Since amendments to the legislation were introduced, the total cost in providing presumptive cancer compensation under the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Amendment Act 2013 to 31 August 2021 is:
 - Workers compensation (WC): \$3,542,314
 - Volunteers Personal Accident (PA): \$1,503,567
- (c) Since amendments to the legislation were introduced, the number of approved workers' compensation and personal accident claims for presumptive cancer to 31 August 2021 is:
 - Workers Compensation: 42 claims approved
 - Personal Accident (Volunteers): 5 claims approved
- (d) Since amendments to the legislation were introduced the number of outstanding claims to 31 August 2021 is:
 - Workers Compensation: 1 claim pending
 - Personal Accident (Volunteers): 5 claims pending
- (e) The State Government is currently reviewing workers' compensation laws to ensure that the State has a modern workers' compensation system that is fair, workable and serves the WA Community.

Minister's initials



1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

11. I refer to the asset investment program and I ask:

- (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the 'Land and Building Works' found on page 463 of Budget Paper 2 for VFRS and VFES facilities under COVID-19 Response;
- (b) Please provide a detailed breakdown of the 'VFRS/VFES Upgrade and Replacement Program across the forward estimates;
- (c) Please advise when the last Building Condition Assessment was conducted at each VFRS and VFES facility;
- (d) What is the expected location of the CFRS South East and CFRS North Coastal fire stations; and
- (e) What is the difference between the primary and secondary fire and emergency fleet?

Answer: ...

(a)

Location	Service	Scope of works	Cost Estimate
Augusta	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities, tunic room	\$690,000
Boyup Brook	VFRS	Tunic room upgrades, Change Facilities and Ablutions	\$230,000
Brookton	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities and Breathing Apparatus room upgrades	\$640,000
Wagin	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities, tunic room and Breathing Apparatus room upgrades	\$730,000
Exmouth	VFRS	Change Room Modifications	\$380,000
Kellerberrin	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities, Breathing Apparatus room, tunic room	\$730,000
Tammin	VFRS	Floor reinstatement, Breathing Apparatus room upgrade	\$490,000
Eucla	VFES	Ablutions and amenities	\$400,000
Dongara	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities, tunic room and appliance bay modifications	\$810,000
Karratha	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities and tunic room	\$490,000
South Hedland	VFRS	Appliance bay modifications and tunic room	\$710,000
Yanchep	VFRS	Ablutions, amenities and tunic room	\$490,000
Waroona	VFES	Ablutions, amenities and tunic room*	\$210,000
Total			\$7,000,000

*cost of ablutions only – additional works funded via DFES capital works budget

(b) to (c) The total funding for VFRS/VFES Upgrade and Replacement program is contained in the Budget Papers. Building Condition audits were completed on all VFRS and VFES facilities throughout 2019.

(d) DFES is investigating suitable locations for these facilities.

(e) **Primary Fleet** - Frontline (first) response types including pumpers, tankers, road crash rescue, natural hazards vehicles e.g. storm, general rescue vehicles, flood boats etc.; and

Secondary Fleet - Support types including aerial appliances (CLP), incident control vehicles (ICV), bulk water carriers (BWC), logistics, specialised equipment, commuter bus, trailers etc.

Minister's initials

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JLW', is written over a horizontal line.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

12. I refer to the table of controlled grants and subsidies found on page 467 of Budget Paper2 and I ask:

- (a) What is the Deputy Commissioner Operations Operational Efficiency Payment

Answer: ...

- Section 51 of the *Fire Brigades Act 1942* makes a provision for the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner to make a discretionary payment to brigades or members by way of a subsidy as a reward, established through key indicators of capability for administration of the brigade, operational preparedness and valuable service.
- Under this provision, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) brigades receive an annual Operational Efficiency Payment (OEP) to assist in meeting costs incurred on non-response type activities, such as community engagement and operational capability and readiness to respond to incidents.
- The OEP has been extended to both the State Emergency Service (SES) and Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) in recent years to provide equity to volunteer services.

Minister's initials

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rw', written over a horizontal line.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

12. I refer to the table of controlled grants and subsidies found on page 467 of Budget Paper2 and I ask:

- (b) With respect to the \$1 million allocated annually to the Volunteer Fuel Card:
- (i) How many BGU's are eligible for a fuel card
 - (ii) How many apply and receive a fuel card;
 - (iii) What are the average charges incurred on a volunteer fuel card; and
 - (iv) How many BGU's who receive the fuel card, fully expended the cards value in 2020-21?

Answer: ...

- (b)
- (i) For the current 2021-22 financial year, the number of BGU's eligible for a fuel card increased to 930.
 - (ii) For the current 2021-22 financial year, 870 BGUs have requested and received a fuel card to date.
 - (iii) In 2020-21 the average charge incurred on a volunteer fuel card was \$740.
 - (iv) In 2020-21 303 BGU's fully expended the \$1,000 fuel card, with 511 or 69% of BGUs expending more than 75% of the allocated amount.

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

13. I refer to the granting of \$2.5 million to Frontline Fire and Rescue Equipment to establish a manufacturing base in Collie and I ask:
- (a) How much funding has been provided to Frontline Fire and Rescue Equipment to date to establish its Collie manufacturing base;
 - (b) Please table the grant application and grant agreement relevant to this grant;
 - (c) How many full time manufacturing positions have been created in Collie to date;
 - (d) Of those identified in (c), how many of these positions reside in:
 - (i) Collie and immediate surrounds;
 - (ii) South West region; and
 - (iii) Elsewhere; and
 - (e) Did the State government provide land in addition to the \$2.5 million grant to establish the manufacturing facility?

Answer: ...

- (a) To date, funding for the amount of \$2,475,000 has been provided to Frontline Fire and Rescue Equipment to establish the Collie facility.
- (b) The grant was awarded through the Collie Industry Attraction and Development Fund and funded from Royalties for Regions.
- (c) To date, there are eight full time manufacturing positions and two administration positions created.
- (d) All five employees reside in Collie, the immediate surrounds and the South West Region.
- (e) The government did not provide the land in addition to the \$2.5 million grant. The land was purchased using the grant funds.

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

16. I refer to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and I ask:

- (a) For each of the last ten years please detail:
 - (i) The total revenue from the ESL; and
 - (ii) The percentage increase from the previous year in ESL revenue; and
- (b) What is the percentage growth in the ESL in the following years:
 - (i) 2021-22;
 - (ii) 2022-23;
 - (iii) 2023-24; and
 - (iv) 2024-25?

Answer:...

16 (a)

	Year	2011/12 (\$'000)	2012/13 (\$'000)	2013/14 (\$'000)	2014/15 (\$'000)	2015/16 (\$'000)	2016/17 (\$'000)	2017/18 (\$'000)	2018/19 (\$'000)	2019/20 (\$'000)	2020/21 (\$'000)
(i)	Total Revenue	232,842	250,853	273,087	289,676	323,268	340,882	356,004	393,391	406,206	372,701
(ii)	% Increase	6.43%	7.73%	8.86%	6.07%	11.60%	5.45%	4.44%	10.50%	3.26%	-8.25%

The amount of Emergency Services Levy raised each year is budget driven and gives proper consideration to other funding sources, including consolidated account appropriation.

16 (b) The amount of Emergency Services Levy to be raised each year is considered through the budgetary process to raise the funding required for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to deliver the best possible emergency service to the State. The Emergency Services Levy Forward Estimates are indications of budget requirements and cannot be defined as "growth."

	Year	ESL Forward Estimate (\$'000)	%
(i)	2021-22	391,316	5.04%
(ii)	2022-23	422,534	7.98%
(iii)	2023-24	437,176	3.47%
(iv)	2024-25	456,681	4.46%

Minister's initials

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials, is written over a horizontal line.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

17. I refer to page 467 of Budget Paper 2 and a reference to Community Emergency Service Managers (CESM) and I ask:

- (a) How many Local Governments receive financial support for the employment of a CESM;
- (b) Where a CESM is shared by multiple Local Governments please identify the Local Government Areas relevant to each CESM position;
- (c) How many CESM's are employed by DFES versus Local Government Authorities;
- (d) What funding has been allocated to increase the number of CESM's available to Local Government in 2021-22 and across the forward estimates;
- (e) How many Local Governments have applied for funding to support a CESM that has been denied;
- (f) Of those identified in (e) on what basis was the funding declined in each instance; and
- (g) Has the department reconsidered the need for Local Government CESM's following the passage of the Work, Health and Safety Act 2020 and if so what is the current resourcing profile recommended for the deployment of CESM's?

Answer: ...

- (a) 57
- (b) A CESM is shared between the Shires of:
 - Katanning, Broomehill, Tambellup and Woodanilling
 - Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup
 - Cranbrook, Gnowangerup and Kojonup
 - Brookton, Pingelly and Corrigin
 - Lake Grace and Kent
 - Cunderdin, Quairading, Kellerberrin and Tammin
 - Goomalling and Toodyay
 - Beverley and York
 - Coorow, Irwin and Carnamah
 - Morawa, Perenjori, Murchison and Yalgoo
 - Moora and Victoria Plains
 - Carnarvon, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne
- (c) DFES employs seven CESMs, Local Governments employ 27 CESMs with financial support from DFES.
- (d) The funding allocation for CESM's beyond 2021-22 will be considered as a part of future budgetary processes.

(e -f) Two local governments have requested a CESM with financial support from DFES in 2021/22. All CESM's currently engaged in the program are allocated to Local Government Authorities to assist Local Governments to engage with the community, emergency services volunteers and carry out their emergency services functions in partnership with the DFES.

(g) No, the CESM program has not been reconsidered in the context of the WHS Act 2020.

Minister's initials

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials, is written over a horizontal line.