

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
2021-22 Budget Estimates – Additional Questions

**Department of Fire and Emergency
Services**

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

1. I refer to question 1 lodged prior to hearings in relation to personal protective equipment, and I ask:
 - (a) Why was it determined appropriate for volunteer firefighters to only be supplied with one set of level 2 PPC;
 - (b) Are volunteer firefighters in regional and remote WA likely to experience delays in dry cleaning and replacing damaged PPC;
 - (c) If yes to (b) and noting that only one set of PPC is being provided to volunteers, how will these issues be mitigated; and
 - (d) What would be the cost of purchasing an additional 845 sets of level 2 PPC to ensure volunteers receive the same level of protection as career firefighters?

Answer: ...

- (a) The PPC allocation to Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service (VFRS) and Volunteer Fire & Emergency Service (VFES) is outlined in DFES Standard Administrative Procedure (SAP) 1.3.F - Uniform & PPE Management.

The allocations defined in the SAP ensure that all DFES operational personnel, career and volunteer have adequate and appropriate PPC.

The roll-out of the new Level 2 PPC is based on allocations outlined in the SAP for current BA qualified personnel.

- (b) Delays for replacement or laundering PPC in some regional and remote locations can be experienced on occasions due to service availability and transport times.
- (c) Any issues of delays for the laundering and replacing PPC is managed within DFES regions to ensure that volunteers have the required PPC when attending incidents.

Additional Level 2 PPC is available at relevant DFES Regional Offices and Brigades to ensure volunteers have the required protection to ensure service delivery during these periods.

- (d) Volunteer firefighters who are qualified in Internal Structural Firefighting will receive the same new Level 2 PPC as career firefighters.

Cost to provide an additional 845 sets of Level 2 Structural Firefighting PPC (tunic, over-trousers and gloves) is \$1,543,840 (ex GST).

Minister's initials



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
2021-22 Budget Estimates – Additional Questions

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

2 I refer to Question 13 lodged prior to hearings in relation to the Frontline Fire and Rescue Equipment manufacturing base in Collie, which stated that 10 full time manufacturing or administration positions have been created in Collie to date, and I ask of those 10 positions identified in the answer how many of these positions reside in

(a) Collie and immediate surrounds,

(b) South West Region, and

(c) Elsewhere?

Answer:...

(a – c) Of the 10 positions, four are filled by Collie Residents, one other by a South West resident and the other five are currently being sourced from the area

Minister's initials



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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

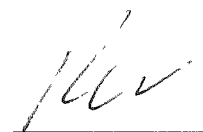
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 3 I refer to the answer provided to question 3 (regional firefighter recruitment) prior to hearings and I ask
- (a) In relation to the funding source(s) of the \$17.8 million commitment please identify the source of the funding by
 - (i) Consolidated fund appropriation,
 - (ii) Royalties for Regions, and
 - (iii) Other sources?
 - (b) Given the recruitment and deployment will take two to three years to finalise, how will firefighter deployments be phased and prioritised across the identified locations?

Answer:...

- (a)
 - (i) \$4.0 million
 - (ii) \$13.8 million
 - (iii) Nil
- (b) The deployment of firefighters to regional Career Fire and Rescue Stations will be completed as quickly as possible, based on a staged approach. Additional firefighters will be deployed to the Albany and Geraldton Fire Stations first. The Kalgoorlie Fire Station building extensions will be completed to enable additional firefighters to be posted to Kalgoorlie.

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

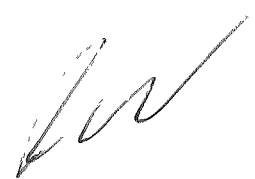
Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 4 I refer to the answer to Question 9 prior to hearing relating to the Wooroloo Bushfire Inquiry and I ask
- (a) Given the inquiry is close to completion and was announced on 13 August 2021, how can it be the case that you do not have an estimated cost of the inquiry,
 - (b) What costs have been incurred to date for the conduct of the inquiry,
 - (c) Of those costs identified in (b) how much can be apportioned to the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) and the inquirers versus internal costs of DFES and Department of Premier and Cabinet,
 - (d) I again ask the Minister to table any advice received in relation to the establishment of an inquiry,
 - (e) I again ask the Minister to please table the letter of engagement, contract, or similar instrument with AFAC for the conduct of the inquiry, and
 - (f) Please provide the hourly, half-day, and day rate applicable to each of the inquirers

Answer:...

- (a - b) The Independent Review is being undertaken by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) The Government will be invoiced by AFAC at the completion of their provision of services for the Independent Review To date, \$17,000 has been paid to AFAC, of an estimated total of \$50,000 - \$55,000
- (c) The figures in (a - b) are all apportioned to AFAC, and do not include in-kind contributions of the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- (d) The Independent Review was established by Cabinet This information is Cabinet in Confidence
- (e) AFAC has been engaged to undertake an Independent Review of the 2021 Wooroloo Bushfire through DFES' arrangements as a Member Organisation of this National Council for fire and emergency services The terms of the engagement were established under the AFAC Procedural Guideline for Conducting AFAC Independent Operational Reviews There is no letter of engagement, contract or similar instrument
- (f) The Wooroloo Independent Review Inquirers are not engaged under a rate-based payment structure – i.e there are no hourly, half-day or day rates in place



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

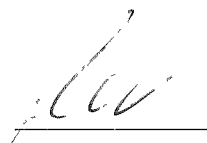
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 5 I refer to the answer to Question 14 prior to hearing relating to the Shire of Northam and the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) and I ask
- (a) Of the 77 applications identified in (f) that did not receive funding from the LGGS due to higher priority applications, what was the total value of the 77 applications, and
 - (b) Of the 11 applications identified in (f) that did not meet the criteria of the LGGS, what was the total value of the 11 applications?

Answer:...

- (a) \$24,208,549
- (b) \$4,935,061

Minister's initials



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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 6 I refer to the answer to Question 17 asked prior to hearings in relation to Community Emergency Service Managers (CESM) and I ask
- (a) Please identify the two Local Government Authorities that have sought funding for a CESM in 2021-22 that were not successful in that request,
 - (b) Given the growth of the ESL is directly linked to the DFES budget, why was funding not available to meet the two requests, and
 - (c) What was the total value of the requests identified in (a)?

Answer:...

- (a) Shire of Brookton and Shires of Three Springs/Mingenew 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.

CESMs are allocated on a strategic basis, according to risk. DFES undertakes a risk assessment, which includes the LGs ability to deliver services with the resources that they have available. The current population, climatic conditions, fuel loads, number of volunteers and number and complexity of incidents is also taken into consideration. When an opportunity to place a CESM arises, DFES approaches LGs assessed as having the highest risk to determine their interest in the CESM program. LGs may decline the CESM placement offer and, in these circumstances, the offer is made to the LG with the next highest risk, until the offer is accepted.

- (b – c) The funding allocation for CESM's beyond 2021-22 will be considered as a part of future budgetary processes.

Minister's initials



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

7 I refer to DFES employees and I ask

- (a) How many positions are currently vacant, and for each
 - (i) How long has each position been vacant,
 - (ii) What is the position title, and
 - (iii) What is the location of the position?
- (b) How many positions are currently being filled in
 - (i) An acting capacity, and
 - (ii) A temporary capacity other than acting, for instance, short term or maternity contracts?
- (c) What newly established positions have been created for each month since January 2021 and including October 2021?
- (d) What is the total number of staff by FTE currently employed within DFES?

Answer:...

(a)

No	Length of vacancy (Calendar Days)	Vacant Position Title	Location (Suburb)
1	67	Administration Officer - Business Management	Nambeelup
2	27	Area Officer Forrest	Bunbury
3	Newly established	Curriculum Developer	Forrestfield
4	Newly established	Exercise Development Officer (Natural Hazards)	Belmont

Please Note Positions included as a current vacancy are those that are not occupied and are posted on the WA Government Jobs Board as at 3 November 2021. Newly established positions are those that have recently been created within DFES' structure

- (b) (i) 189
- (ii) 80 (fixed-term contact)

(c)

Month	No.
January	0
February	1
March	0
April	1
May	8
June	0
July	4
August	1
September	6
October	4
Total	25

(d) 1744 51 FTE

Minister's initials

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ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
2021-22 Budget Estimates – Additional Questions

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 8 I refer to the VFRS/VFES Upgrade and Replacement Program in Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Page 463 and I ask
- (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown of this program for 2021-22 and across the forward estimates which identifies
 - (i) The location,
 - (ii) Service,
 - (iii) Scope of works, and
 - (iv) Cost estimate?

Answer:

(a)(i) to (iv) The total funding for the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Replacement Program contained in the Budget Papers includes funding for the Northampton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Station, Halls Creek Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Station and the Margaret River Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station. Contractual negotiations are ongoing in relation to these projects.

Minister's initials

