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## Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services

Our Ref: 65-15642

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
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Dear Hon Swinbourn

*Matt,*

Thank you for your correspondence dated 15 October 2020 seeking additional information regarding Petition No.155 – Midwest region-based Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service (EHRH). I appreciate the opportunity to provide further information, which I trust will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

As mentioned in my earlier advice to the Committee, the current review of the next generation of EHRH aircraft is well underway by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), with a significant body of work completed in 2019, including publishing an early tenders' advice on the Tenders WA website. In relation to the Committee's request for further information on DFES' service reviews, I submit that DFES continually examines its operations to ensure it can meet its statutory responsibility of delivering emergency services in Western Australia (WA).

The information collected from the 2017 and 2019 service reviews evaluated state-wide capability. This assessed future requirements of the EHRH aircraft fleet and considered the strengths and opportunities that exist at regional airports with jet aviation infrastructure as potential bases. This informs the current procurement process, with the Request for Tender (RFT) planned to go to market prior to the end of the Financial Year 2020-21.

The primary function of the service reviews was to undertake a complete assessment of the network, including operational data and regional response; identification of suitable aerodromes around regional response hot-spots; and data from St John Ambulance and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for incidents meeting EHRH tasking requirements within a 350km flight range of the identified aerodromes. This process incorporated an assessment of the Australian rescue helicopter capability and their response range, within the national rescue helicopter network.

The information obtained from the service reviews has been extensively assessed to review the need for future EHRH aircraft fleet and bases in WA, while considering the strengths and opportunities that exist in and around regional communities.

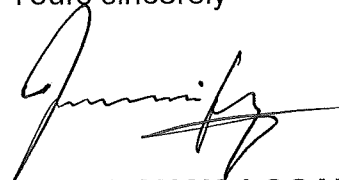
The ERHS 2021 procurement will incorporate this data with the view to improving the current model of service delivery contracts, inform the next generation rescue helicopter requirements and may include options for additional service capability.

The DFES ERHS 2021 procurement timeline currently plans for the Helicopter and Crew RFT and Market Brief to occur in early 2021 (see attached planned timeline). Contract award is planned for mid-2021, with subsequent operationalisation of the next generation of rescue helicopters forecast for 1 July 2023. This timeline is based on the requirement for the implementation and fit-out of new rescue aircraft. The Critical Care Paramedic RFT and Market Brief is planned for late 2021 with operationalisation shortly afterwards. The plan to stagger the contracts ensures minimal service disruption between potential new contracted service delivery providers. The ERHS 2021 timeline is based on replacement of the current ERHS service delivery model with the same number of aircraft.

I resubmit the matters that I raised in my earlier response. While I appreciate that there is a genuine desire for a Midwest based ERHS, I reiterate that resource allocation in emergency services must be considered in the context of delivering the best possible long-term emergency service delivery to the whole State. DFES and other relevant stakeholders have the appropriate expertise to consider the ERHS requirements and service delivery model to meet the needs of the State. Any deviation from this process could deliver suboptimal outcomes to communities.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter. I trust my feedback will enable you to evaluate the petition with further clarity.

Yours sincerely



**HON FRANCIS LOGAN MLA**

**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

05 NOV 2020

Att

## Planned Timeline for Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service Procurement

| ACTIVITIES   | FY 2020-21 |    | FY 2021-22 |    |    |    | FY 2022-23 |    |    |    | FY 2023-24 |    |
|--|------------|----|------------|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|------------|----|
|  | Q3         | Q4 | Q1         | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1         | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1         | Q2 |
| <b>Helicopter and Crew</b>   |            |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| Market brief   | ◆          |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| RFT  | ◆          |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| Contract award   |            |    | ◆          |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| Receive helicopter and undertake rescue fit out                            |            |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    | ◆  |            |    |
| Subsequent operationalisation of the next generation of rescue helicopters |            |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    |    | ◆          |    |
| <b>Critical Care Paramedics</b>  |            |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| Market brief   |            |    |            | ◆  |    |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| RFT  |            |    |            |    | ◆  |    |            |    |    |    |            |    |
| Contract Award   |            |    |            |    |    | ◆  |            |    |    |    |            |    |

NOTE: The procurement activity for the Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service (ERHS) time is based on replacing the current ERHS service delivery model with the same number of aircraft.

