

Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2016-17 Annual Report hearings - Questions prior to hearings



Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC asked:

1. Page 16 of the 2017 annual report twice refers to the Emergency Services Levy review in the context of Volunteer Marine Rescue Services and completion of the review by the Economic Regulation Authority. With regard to the ESL review, I ask:
 - (a) Is the Department aware of any potential planned response to the review from the State Government;
The State Government is currently considering the recommendations from the ERA review into the ESL.
 - (b) If yes to (a), has the Department been briefed on what this response may include; and
Please refer to (a)
 - (c) Has the Department indicated its support or opposition to any of the recommendations made in the ESL review to the Minister?
DFES' position (as articulated through these submissions) was provided to the Minister for Emergency Services and are available on the ERA website www.erawa.com.au

2. I refer to mention of a new Volunteer Hub being developed by the Department on page 27 of the 2017 annual report:
 - (a) On what specific date will this Volunteer Hub be complete and available for use by volunteers;
A pilot version of the Volunteer Hub is anticipated for release in the third quarter of 2018.
 - (b) How many members of the volunteer project team are from regional Western Australia; and
The Volunteer Working Group has 166 volunteers registered and 98 (59%) are from regional WA. All regions of WA are represented in the volunteer project team. It is an objective of the engagement strategy to ensure regional volunteers are involved in the project.

- (c) What considerations are being given to regional volunteers who may have difficulty accessing the Hub due to poor or no internet coverage?

This has been a key consideration in development of the Volunteer Hub. Regional volunteers have provided significant input into the development of the hub and how it will be structured including consideration to internet difficulties in regional WA. The Volunteer Hub is being designed to be accessible on both computers and mobile devices as volunteers have indicated that they commonly use mobile devices to access the internet. The Volunteer Hub has also been designed so that volunteers can choose to use a low bandwidth version of content which will reduce demand on low bandwidth connections as experienced in some areas of regional WA. Additionally, the design of the volunteer hub aims to accommodate poor internet coverage by limiting the size of large images and media files and listing the size of documents to ensure a user is aware of the amount of download required and allow them to decide whether they want to download the file or not.

Project resources have been allocated to ensure the good performance of the site across a range of network conditions. The bandwidth required for static web content is being minimised using industry best practice. Regional volunteers will be involved in testing and piloting the site.

In addition, DFES is currently working to ensure that volunteers have access to training material and support regardless of geographic location.

3. I refer to the figure of 236 bushfire ready groups on page 143 of the 2017 annual report:

- (a) Can the Department table a list of WA Bushfire Ready Groups by name, location and respective areas of coverage;

DFES maintains a database for all Bushfire Ready Groups by location and respective areas only. The groups are defined by the areas where a Street Coordinator/s is working with groups within a street or geographical area. A tabled list is attached. (Attachment A)

[See Tabled Paper ...]

- (b) If no to (a), why not; and
Not applicable.
- (c) What is the projected KPI figure for WA Bushfire Ready Groups for 2017-18?

The projected Bushfire Ready Groups KPI for 2017/18 is a 5% increase of the 2016/17 total number reported. The projected number of Bushfire Ready Groups for 2017/18 is 248.

4. Appendix 1 on page 191 of the 2017 annual report refers full-time equivalent staff numbers. Please provide:

- (a) The total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations as at 30 June 2017;

Region	Location	Number of employees (headcount)	FTE equivalent
Great Southern	Albany	38	37.0
Great Southern	Esperance	1	1.0
Great Southern	Narrogin	4	3.4
Lower South West	Manjimup	15	14.0
South West	Bunbury	59	58.0
Peel	Mandurah	20	20.0
Goldfields Midlands	Kalgoorlie	28	27.8
Goldfields Midlands	Northam	12	12.0
Midwest Gascoyne	Carnarvon	1	1.0
Midwest Gascoyne	Geraldton	41	41.0
Pilbara	Karratha	6	4.8
Pilbara	Port Hedland	4	3.5
Kimberley	Kununurra	1	1.0
Kimberley	Broome	10	10.0

- (b) The total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations currently;

Region	Location	Number of employees (headcount)	FTE equivalent
Great Southern	Albany	38	37.0
Great Southern	Esperance	1 (0.2 admin commencing 22/12/2017)	1.0
Great Southern	Narrogin	4	3.4
Lower South West	Manjimup	15	14.0
South West	Bunbury	59	58.0
Peel	Mandurah	20	20.0
Goldfields Midlands	Kalgoorlie	28	27.8
Goldfields Midlands	Northam	12	12.0
Midwest Gascoyne	Carnarvon	1	1.0
Midwest Gascoyne	Geraldton	41	41.0
Pilbara	Karratha	6	4.8
Pilbara	Port Hedland	4	3.5
Kimberley	Kununurra	1	1.0
Kimberley	Broome	11	11.0

- (c) The total number of positions required to be cut by the Department as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme; and

The Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) is a Budget repair tool to assist agencies in meeting Machinery of Government (MoG) savings resulting from the amalgamation of a number of government departments as well as assist in achieving workforce renewal by enabling agencies to retain 20% of the savings. The VTSS is open to

all general government employees, though priority is being given to agencies impacted by the MoG changes (which took effect from 1 July 2017).

Agency targets are Cabinet-in-confidence and were provided as a guide to assist agencies and Ministers with implementation of the scheme. While the reductions will vary between agencies depending on factors like MoG changes, the size and role of individual agencies and other impacts, all agencies are expected to contribute in order to meet the overall reduction target of 3,000 employees.

Agencies are currently working with the Public Sector Commission to progress the scheme via individual expression of interest (EOI) processes. The agency EOIs are currently at various stages, with all exits expected to occur by 31 March 2018. Progress will be reported to Cabinet during the 2018-19 Budget process, with the aim of achieving the 3,000 separations and reflecting the actual savings and costs from the VTSS in the 2018-19 Budget.

- (d) With reference to question 3, please provide the total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia which will be cut by the Department as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme?

Please refer to (c)

5. I refer to recruitment section on page 178 of the 2017 Annual Report and I ask:

- (a) What is the Department doing to encourage those unsuccessful in applying for a full-time firefighting position, due to oversubscription, to take up volunteer emergency service roles in the community;

In the 2016 firefighter recruitment process, over 350 applicants (in excess of 30%) identified that they had been or were actively involved in emergency services volunteering.

Depending on the elements in which they were unsuccessful, applicants who request feedback on their overall application may be encouraged to consider active involvement in the community, including the option of becoming an emergency services volunteer. While this approach does not guarantee an increase in competitiveness, previous experience or training in volunteer emergency services may enhance an applicant's performance in some recruitment stages.

- (b) What apprenticeship options are available through the Department; and

DFES has a Radio Communications apprenticeship in the field of electronics. DFES works with apprenticeship organisations and offers placements to apprentice mechanics at its O'Connor workshops however due to the specialised nature of its workshops, an apprenticeship completed solely through DFES does not provide the necessary scope of experiences.

- (c) Are contracted services bound by the same diversity policies as recruitment of agency staff?

Non-employees are not specifically bound by DFES' diversity policies.

6. Page 149 of the 2017 annual report outlines 13 per cent of the Department's assets are outside the specified replacement period.

(a) Can the Department please table a list of assets (both facilities and fleet) that required replacement at 30 June 2017; and

The KPI on page 149 does not refer to assets (neither facilities nor fleet) that required replacement as at 30 June 2017. It does, however, refer to specified replacement period parameters that DFES uses as a proactive guide for its asset management program.

Any assets deemed no longer fit for purpose are decommissioned and disposed of regardless of replacement term.

(b) Can the Department please table a list of assets (both facilities and fleet) that require replacement now, and the locations of where these assets are based?

Please refer to question 6(a).

LGA	Suburb	Number of Groups as at 21-12-2017	Bushfire Ready Group location/area
City of Armadale	BEDFORDALE	1	Red Cap Rise and Canns Road
		2	Carradine Heights
		1	Chipper Close
		2	Churchmans Estate
		1	Dowell Close (Wallangarra South)
		1	Narbethorng
		1	Stevens
		1	Central Albany Hwy - Cross Road & Waterwheel
		1	Albany Hwy near Narbethorng
		1	Otway
		1	Blackwood (Mount Nasura)
		1	Bedfordale Hill Road
		1	Carawatha- incl Rushton, Blackwood & Serena
		1	Onyx and Saw Road
		1	Richon Heights and Woodcroft
		1	Paterson Road 23 - 69
		1	Coolabah Drive
		1	Higgins Place and Lorannah Street
		1	Dirk/Smith/Alawoona Circle and Taylor Road
		1	Taylor Road
1	Clarkson		
1	School Road		
1	Hall Road		
1	Barbigal/Jarrah/Attunga/Berrima/ Barbigal		
1	Rubida Rise		
1	Rogders Court		
1	Soldiers Road and Brookton Highway		
1	Protector Grove		
1	Versteeg Grove		
1	Contour Road		
1	Simons Drive		
1	Rubida rise		
1	Buchanan Road		
1	Rogders Court and Simmons Drive		
1	Soldiers Road		
1	Croyden Road		
1	Kurrajong Street		
1	Brownley and Winstanley		
1	Chevin Road		
1	KARRAGULLEN		
1	ROLEYSTONE		

City of Busselton	DUNSBOROUGH	1 Mann Place and Peet Road
		1 Garland and Hawks
		1 Heath Road
		1 Peet Road and Birtwhistle
		1 Barbara and Hawkstone Road
		1 Pound Place
		3 Ridgehill Rise
		1 Kobus Heights
		1 Urch Road
		1 Heritage Road and Coachmans Place
		1 Hall Road/ Blackett Court/ Glebe
		2 Croyden Road
		1 Endicott Loop North
		1 Endicott Loop South
		1 Martina Dr / Endora Cl / Sloan Drive
		1 Okapa Rise / Sloan Drive / Capstone Cl
		1 Samphire Pl / Sloan Drive
		1 Caprigardi Court / Ridgeway Drive
		1 Koopin Place
		1 Windle Place / Yungarra Dr / Nth Ridgeway Dr / Rocky Place
		1 Dalmore Close / Yungarra Drive
		1 Yungarra Drive Central
		1 Yungarra Drive (Biddle Rd end) both sides
		1 Parkfield Close / Quedjinup Dr
		1 Bina Place Kurrum Place
		1 Big Rock Place / Caves Rd from Yungarra
	1 Jones Road	
	1 O'Byrne Road	
	1 Wisteria Drive / Jarrah Knoll Place / Curlew Rise / Old Mill Grove	
	1 Hayes Road	
	1 Ocean View Drive / Woodlands Way / Seahill Cres / Tranquil Lane	
	1 Green Park Road	
	1 Vintners Drive / Baume Lane / Veraison Place / Caudalie Way / Broyage Retreat / Charnu Place	
	1 Reinscourt	
REINSCOURT	1 Quininup	
WILYABRUP	1 Caves Road North End	
YALLINGUP	1 The Dell Retreat	
	1 Indjidup / Sainsbury Loop / House Glen	
	1 Whittle Road and Caves Road	
	1 Blue Orchid Court / Lagoon Drive	
	1 Coley Rd	

Shire of Donnybrook- Balingup	ARGYLE	1	Chislehurst Avenue
		1	Jaymon Road
		1	Mewett Drive
		1	Minninup Road
		1	Marshall Road / Hurst Road north
		1	Myrtle Ridge
		1	Howlett Ramble / Perseverance Boulevard
		1	Marshall Road
		1	Billinghurst Road
		1	Hetherington Road
		1	Howlett Ramble / Perseverance Boulevard
		1	Miller Road
		1	Nash Place
		1	Hickman Place
Shire of Harvey	Harvey Hills MYALUP	1	Letto Way 2
		1	Myalup Townsite
		1	Myalup Townsite (West)
		1	Thornton Drive
Shire of Irwin	DONGARA	2	Uduc North
		1	Central Springfield
		1	North Springfield
		1	South Springfield
		1	Central Springfield
		1	Pike Road
		1	David Hibbard
Shire of Mundaring	DARLINGTON	1	Amherst Ave
		1	Beenong Road
		2	Cook Street
		1	Dairy (West)
		1	Dairy Road (Central)
		1	105 - 127 Darlington to Montrose Street
		1	Edith Street
		1	Ferguson Road
		3	Glen Road
		1	Hilcrest Drive
		1	Hillsden Road
		1	Hubert Street
		1	John Street
		1	Kookaburra Place
1	Lawson Way		
1	Lumeah Court		

	1	Marnie Road	
	1	Nelson Road	
	1	Mofflin Street	
	1	Noonamena Place	
	1	1 - 18 Owen Road	
	1	18 - 31 Owen Road	
	1	Oakleigh Road	
	1	Oxley Place	
	1	Stone Crescent	
	2	View Terrace	
	1	Dale Place	
	1	Dairy Road (East)	
	1	Fyfe Street	
	1	Hillsden Road (south)	
	1	Homesdale Place	
	1	Lawrence Place	
	1	Yamba	
	241		
Shire of Murray		NORTH DANDALUP	