

**Division 55: Fire and Emergency Services —**

**[Supplementary Information No A3.]**

*Question:* Ms M.M. Quirk asked for a detailed list of what is expended by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that is not covered by revenue raised through the emergency services levy.

*Answer:* Department of Fire and Emergency Services' expenses that are not funded through the Emergency Services Levy in 2016/17 are:

<b>CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT</b>	
Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service - Metro	\$7.673 million
Surf Life Saving WA	\$1.347 million
Unexploded Ordnance	\$0.118 million
Holding Account Contribution	\$6.421 million
Volunteer Fuel Card – Metro area and Peri-Urban Fringe	\$0.139 million
Bushfire Risk Management Planning Process	\$1.963 million
ESL Charges on State Government Property	\$16.000 million
Amounts Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	\$1.041 million
Unbudgeted costs for unpredictable events such as wildfire and SES responses in accordance with Section 27 of the <i>Financial Management Act 2006</i>	\$ subject to recoup arrangements via annual supplementary funding process.
<b>ROYALTIES FOR REGION</b>	
Comprehensive Fire Crew Protection	\$2.944 million
Volunteer Fuel Card	\$1.835 million
Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service – South West	\$9.424 million
District Allowances	\$0.236 million
<b>COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT</b>	
Indian Ocean Territories	\$0.654 million
Bushfire Risk Management Planning Process– Natural Disaster Resilience Program	\$1.030 million
Aviation Services	\$2.500 million
Fire Services	\$1.397 million
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS</b>	
Bushfire Mitigation – Education Department	\$0.195 million
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Community Emergency Service Managers	\$0.506 million

**[Supplementary Information No A4.]**

*Question:* Mr D.J. Kelly asked the minister to provide details on the timeliness, content and the person who provided the advice on the Ashfield Flats fire that occurred last year.

*Answer:*

- (a) 23 September 2015.
- (b) Advice was provided by Mr Jarad Finneran, Principal Policy Advisor.
- (c) Advice was provided in writing.

**[Supplementary Information No A5.]**

*Question:* Mr D.J. Kelly asked when the Department of Fire and Emergency Services became aware of the pentachlorophenol contamination of the groundwater at and around the Forrestfield facility; what concentration of PCP contamination was found at Forrestfield and what is the safe concentration according to health standards; what program of action the department has planned to manage and minimise the effects of the contamination; who is responsible for the monitoring of the groundwater contamination and how often and over what area samples will be taken for this monitoring; who does the actual testing and for how long they have this contract; what budget over the forward years has been planned to continue both the monitoring and remedial action, if necessary, to be carried out; how does it plan to keep the public informed with regard to both the extent of contamination and the monitoring process; and what compensation package is envisaged if the containment actions are not satisfactory to the nearby residents and primary school of Forrestfield.

*Answer:*

- (1) In July 2009, the first confirmed detections of Perfluoroalkyl (PFOS) in non-potable/ recreational groundwater were from samples collected from the Forrestfield facility.
- (2)
  - (a) On 8 April 2016, DFES was advised that the most recent concentrations of PFOS were:
    - Bore 1 = 13.1 ug/l;
    - Bore 2 = 0.71 ug/l; and
    - Bore 3 = 10.8 ug/l.
  - (b) Until February 2016, no Australian guidelines were available.

In 2016, the Department of Environment Regulation's (DER) *Interim Guideline on the Assessment and Management of PFOS and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)* provides a PFOS criterion of 0.5 µg/L for drinking water and 5 µg/L for non-potable and recreational uses. When this guideline became available, DFES commenced monthly testing of groundwater.
- (3) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has taken the following actions to manage on site contamination:
  - Bore 1 was decommissioned on 8 April 2016;
  - Bore 2 will continue to be used and monitored; and
  - Bore 3 will be used for reticulation of non-edible plants.
- (4) DFES and LandCorp are responsible for monitoring groundwater contamination.
- (5) DFES contracts QED Environmental Services to undertake monthly testing of three bores at the contaminated site.

Samples are collected from nine off-site properties located within 1 km of the site to evaluate if the contamination has extended off-site.
- (6) Golder Associates was contracted by Landcorp to conduct on site testing at Forrestfield in 2009, 2011 and 2016.
- (7) DFES has recurrent budget to complete monthly on site testing of groundwater.

DFES will require additional funds to implement any recommendations from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) pending the outcome of further on and off site testing.

- (8) It is currently proposed to provide information on the results of off-site bore sampling to surrounding residents through direct mail. Residents within a 1km radius were informed about the issue through a bore water use survey. Where private bores are required for preliminary sampling, the bore owner will receive information on their own bore results.

Where sampling is not proposed at this stage, residents will receive general information on the off-site results and future investigation plans.

If off-site samples indicate detections of PFOS away from the site, a comprehensive community engagement strategy will be developed and implemented.

- (9) Consideration of compensation or remediation programs is premature as the investigation is still to confirm if migration of PFOS away from the fire training facility has occurred.

**[Supplementary Information No A6.]**

*Question:* Ms M.M. Quirk asked the minister to detail how time is measured from the time a 000 call is received.

*Answer:* A standard definition for ‘total response time’ is used across fire agencies in Australia and is the basis for reporting response time data both at State and National levels.

‘Total Response Time’ includes three components which are measured as follows:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>DFES ESL 1 Target (90<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>	<b>DFES ESL 2 Target (90<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>
Call Handling	Time between Telstra handing over a 000 call for assistance to the DFES Communication Centre and the Communication Centre requesting a brigade to mobilise	2 minutes	2 minutes
Mobilisation (also referred to as Turnout)	Time between the request to mobilise and the crew advising they are on their way to the incident	3 minutes	5 minutes
Travel	Time between crew advising they are on their way to the incident and confirmation they have arrived at the incident	7 minutes	7 minutes
<b>Total Response Time</b>	<b>An aggregation of the time taken for the three components above</b>	<b>12 minutes</b>	<b>14 minutes</b>