

Legislative Assembly
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Questions from Hearing Wednesday, 1 November 2017

Question

1. Whether there is a fire and emergency services emergency response guide (FES-ERG) for the Kemerton Industrial Park (p10 of transcript).

Response

The Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Response Guide (FES-ERG) is designed to provide essential information to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for use in an emergency.

It applies to dangerous goods sites (except petrol stations and mine sites) that store or handle more than ten times the manifest quantity of dangerous goods (see Schedule 1 of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007).

In relation to Kemerton Industrial Park, there are FES-ERGs developed for:-

- Cristal Pigment Plant
- Coogee Kemerton Chlor Alkali
- BOC Gases Kemerton

For the new gas power plant being developed, Ratch Australia Diesel Kemerton, a FES-ERG will be prepared.

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2. Information about the location of DFES radio communication blackspots in Western Australia, particularly along transport links and in regional areas (p10) .

Response

There are radio systems established in the main tunnels which operate on DFES' Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) radio channels. Communications occur between responders below ground to crews above ground such as Incident Support crews, Incident Controllers and Incident Management Teams on a UHF channel, and if required, responders can direct communications from below ground to DFES' Communications Centre and State Operations management on a VHF channel known as 6AR.

Crews and responders travelling below ground are trained to change channels to the specific in-tunnel channels. Specifically, channel 372 VHF for DFES' State Operations Communication Centre 6AR, and the new Harmonised Government Spectrum 400 MHz channel 209 'tunnel internal' for UHF, which translates to the 400 MHz channel 210 above ground.

These systems are installed in the Farmer Freeway tunnel; the Perth Underground; the Esplanade and Subiaco train stations and associated rail tunnels (Kenwick and Anketell). They were installed during construction and are maintained on DFES' behalf by the respective owners of the relevant infrastructure (eg Main Roads Western Australia and the Perth Transport Authority [PTA]) as they share the in-tunnel distributed antenna systems which are also used by other agencies' radio systems including the PTA; the Western Australia Police and St John's Ambulance, and in the case of the Farmer Freeway, broadcast radio is also translated underground.

With respect to radio coverage more broadly across the state, DFES is conducting a refresh of the coverage maps which will be concluded in the second half of 2018 to reflect improvements in coverage which will result from DFES' current activities to migrate to the Harmonised Government Spectrum by June 2018, and selected regional coverage improvements in remote areas.

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3. Information about proposals or discussions to address the cost of on-site water storage and pumping borne by a single land block in order to adhere to water pressure requirements for firefighting (pp12-13).

Response

Shared services (water) are widespread and already addressed regionally through plans submission and analysis, most likely performance, or alternative solutions. Alternative solutions include but are not restricted to, greater building separation or compartmentation, more extensive and self-contained sprinkler systems and greater on-site expertise and/or resources to manage risks. These are assessed on merit and in line with all National Construction Code requirements as per the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

Some BCA requirements are considered to be major concerns as they are not easily applied across all jurisdictions, particularly State Pressure Variations (2.2.3), Relay Pump (2.2.9) External Fire Hydrants (3.5.1), Additional Fire Hydrants (3.6.3) and Fire Brigade Booster Assembly Location (7.3.1). Possible amendments to the BCA are being managed at a national level with input from states, expert groups and community consultation. The process is being treated as urgent.

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4. Whether the contract for the rescue helicopter in the south west prevents the helicopter from transferring stroke victims to an emergency centre in Perth (p13).

Response

No, the contract for the rescue helicopter and crew and the contract for the provision of critical care paramedics does not prevent the helicopter from transferring stroke victims to an emergency centre in Perth.

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Question

5. *The audit of externally clad buildings in Western Australia (referred to on p8 of transcript).*

Response

Please refer to the Western Australian Building Commission.

The link provided indicates the process the WABC are undertaking, the Audit is extensive and will take many years.

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission/state-wide-cladding-audit>

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Question

6. *The DFES strategy to increase its resilience to information and cyber security threats.*

Response

DFES' ICT strategy is aligned to the WA Government's Digital Transformation Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in 2016. This comprises 18 maturity elements, including capable staff and digital security.

DFES operates its information services behind a secured perimeter of firewalls and manages internet traffic flow through the Department of Finance operated Secure Net service.

A series of reviews was conducted in late 2015 and throughout 2016 to investigate the department's resilience and cyber security threat risk management. The reviews identified a range of improvement activities for example from changing password security settings, addressing security patch management protocols, educating staff of behavioural best practice to equipment replacement. A work program was established and funding sought to action the risks identified. Management of this plan is undertaken by a Cyber Security Working Group chaired by DFES' ICT Director.

Cyber security advice and assistance is provided to the Department by a range of specialist support services including Gartner Technical Support and selected external contractors who work on-site.

The Department prepares an annual audit program which includes penetration testing of high profile and critical business systems. DFES recognises the need to align its practices to ISO27001¹ and reports progress to the Audit and Risk Management Committee on a quarterly basis.

In accordance with the WA Government Digital Transformation Strategy, DFES has revised all ICT job descriptions to include alignment to the 'Skills Framework of the Information Age' which includes cyber security skills and development plans are in place to address skill gaps.

DFES is a participating member of the Federal Government's cyber security framework and receives daily alerts from CERT Australia².

The Department is actively transitioning to the GovNext services including shifting compute into the Government's new data centres. These data centres operate at an increased level of cyber security and in so migrating, DFES will further reduce its operating and response risk profile.

¹ Refers to international standard for Information Security Management.

² CERT Australia (the CERT) is the national computer emergency response team and it is the point of contact in Government for cyber security issues affecting major Australian businesses. The CERT is part of the Federal Attorney-General's Department. The CERT provides advice and support on cyber threats and vulnerabilities to the owners and operators of critical infrastructure and other systems of national interest.

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Question

7. A breakdown of all local governments that:

- a. Are considered by DFES as having a 'high bushfire risk' (referred to on p14);
- b. Have completed a bushfire risk management plan;
- c. Are developing a bushfire risk management plan; and
- d. Do not have a bushfire risk management plan.

With regard to question 7, please identify local governments that are developing or have developed their plans with funding and support from the bushfire risk mitigation planning process overseen by DFES and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and those local governments that have developed plans outside of this structure.

Response

7a. A breakdown of the 59 local governments who are considered by DFES as having a "high bushfire risk" are:

City of Albany
City of Armadale
City of Bunbury
City of Busselton
City of Cockburn
City of Gosnells
City of Greater Geraldton
City of Mandurah
City of Rockingham
City of Swan
City of Wanneroo
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Shire of Beverley
Shire of Boddington
Shire of Boyup Brook
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Shire of Broome
Shire of Broomhill-Tambellup
Shire of Capel
Shire of Carnamah
Shire of Carnarvon
Shire of Chapman Valley
Shire of Chittering
Shire of Collie
Shire of Coorow
Shire of Dandaragan
Shire of Dardanup
Shire of Denmark

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Shire of Esperance
Shire of Gingin
Shire of Harvey
Shire of Irwin
Shire of Jerramungup
Shire of Kalamunda
Shire of Katanning
Shire of Manjimup
Shire of Mundaring
Shire of Murchison
Shire of Murray
Shire of Nannup
Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Northam
Shire of Northampton
Shire of Plantagenet
Shire of Ravensthorpe
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Shark Bay
Shire of Toodyay
Shire of Victoria Plains
Shire of Wagin
Shire of Waroona
Shire of West Arthur
Shire of Williams
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Shire of Woodanilling
Shire of York
Town of Kwinana
Town of Narrogin

Please note that the Shire and Town of Narrogin have amalgamated since the list was first developed.

7b. There are 15 Local Governments that have completed a BRMP in the respect that the Plan has been endorsed by OBRM as being compliant with the current Guidelines and are now developing their treatment schedules. All of these local governments have received financial and resource support through DFES for the development of their plans:

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Shire of Beverley
Shire of Boddington
Shire of Boyup Brook
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Shire of Carnamah
Shire of Chittering
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Shire of Irwin

Shire of Jerramungup
Shire of Nannup
Shire of Northampton
Shire of Ravensthorpe
Shire of West Arthur
Shire of Woodanilling

7c. There are 25 local governments that DFES is aware of that have commenced the development of their BRMP. Each of these have or soon will have received basic training from DFES. Twelve (12) of these local governments have received funding and resource support from DFES to develop these plans and are marked with an asterix (*). The unmarked 14 local governments are receiving no financial or resources support. These local governments are:

City of Armadale
City of Busselton*
City of Cockburn
City of Gosnells
City of Joondalup
City of Karratha
City of Kwinana
City of Mandurah
City of Rockingham
City of Swan
City of Wanneroo
Shire of Collie*
Shire of Coorow*
Shire of Dandaragan*
Shire of Denmark*
Shire of Gingin*
Shire of Harvey*
Shire of Kalamunda
Shire of Manjimup*
Shire of Mundaring
Shire of Northam*
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Toodyay*
Shire of Wagin*
Shire of York*

7d. OBRM and DFES understand that 97 local governments are not yet working toward a BRMP. However, it should be noted that some of these local governments may not require a BRMP, given the limited bushfire risk associated with their location within the Perth metropolitan area. The 97 local governments are:

City of Albany
City of Bayswater
City of Belmont
City of Bunbury
City of Canning

City of Fremantle
City of Greater Geraldton
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
City of Melville
City of Nedlands
City of Perth
City of South Perth
City of Stirling
City of Subiaco
City of Vincent
Shire of Ashburton
Shire of Brookton
Shire of Broome
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
Shire of Bruce Rock
Shire of Capel
Shire of Carnarvon
Shire of Chapman Valley
Shire of Coolgardie
Shire of Corrigin
Shire of Cranbrook
Shire of Cuballing
Shire of Cue
Shire of Cunderdin
Shire of Dalwallinu
Shire of Dardanup
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
Shire of Dowerin
Shire of Dumbleyung
Shire of Dundas
Shire of East Pilbara
Shire of Esperance
Shire of Exmouth
Shire of Gnowangerup
Shire of Goomalling
Shire of Halls Creek
Shire of Katanning
Shire of Kellerberrin
Shire of Kent
Shire of Kojonup
Shire of Kondinin
Shire of Koorda
Shire of Kulin
Shire of Lake Grace
Shire of Laverton
Shire of Leonora
Shire of Meekatharra

Shire of Menzies
Shire of Merredin
Shire of Mingenew
Shire of Moora
Shire of Morawa
Shire of Mt Magnet
Shire of Mt Marshall
Shire of Mukinbudin
Shire of Murchison
Shire of Murray
Shire of Narembeen
Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Shire of Nungarin
Shire of Peppermint Grove
Shire of Perenjori
Shire of Pingelly
Shire of Plantagenet
Shire of Quairading
Shire of Sandstone
Shire of Shark Bay
Shire of Tammin
Shire of Three Springs
Shire of Trayning
Shire of Upper Gascoyne
Shire of Victoria Plains
Shire of Wandering
Shire of Waroona
Shire of Westonia
Shire of Wickepin
Shire of Williams
Shire of Wiluna
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Shire of Wyalkatchem
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Shire of Yalgoo
Shire of Yilgarn
Town of Bassendean
Town of Cambridge
Town of Claremont
Town of Cottesloe
Town of East Fremantle
Town of Mosman Park
Town of Port Hedland
Town of Victoria Park

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8. What oversight processes are in place to ensure local governments are implementing their bushfire risk management plans?

Response

The BRMP Guideline establishes the requirement for local government to report annually, at the end of each financial year, to the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM). The annual report is generated through the central database where all local governments enter their BRMP information. OBRM and DFES have the ability to audit BRMPs through the database to ensure the entry of assets, determination of risk and tracking of treatment strategies is appropriate.