

Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia

Annual Report **2007-08**

CONTACT DETAILS

In line with State Government requirements, this annual report is published in electronic format. In order to minimise download times and reduce printing, we have provided the report in chapters, as well as the entire document. We encourage people to use recycled paper and to print double-sided if they print a copy of the report or sections of it.

Limited hard copies of the report are available from the Manager Corporate Planning and Reporting.

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CONTENTS

CONTACT DETAILS	2	2 AGENCY PERFORMANCE – REPORT ON OPERATIONS	20
GLOSSARY	6	RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT GOALS	20
STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE	7	OUR AGENCY LEVEL DESIRED OUTCOME	20
1 OVERVIEW	8	OUR SERVICES	20
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	8	PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	20
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	9	RESOURCE AGREEMENT	20
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	10	FINANCIAL TARGETS	20
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	10	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	21
PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS	10	OUR FOCUS FOR 2007-08	21
QUICK STATISTICS	12	PREVENTION SERVICES	23
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING 2007-08	13	EMERGENCY SERVICES	23
OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE	14	MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007-08 – PREVENTION SERVICES	24
RESPONSIBLE MINISTER	14	FESA 2023 SHAPING OUR FUTURE	24
ENABLING LEGISLATION	14	ENHANCED GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING	25
OUR VISION	14	NATURAL HAZARD PLANNING	26
OUR MISSION	14	TSUNAMI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA	27
OUR VALUES	14	TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS	28
OUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	14	COMMUNITY SAFETY	29
ORGANISATIONAL CHART	15	MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2007-08 – EMERGENCY SERVICES	30
THE FESA BOARD	16	LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	30
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE	16	INCIDENT COORDINATION	30
ADMINISTERED LEGISLATION	17	AERIAL SERVICES	30
OTHER KEY LEGISLATION IMPACTING ON FESA'S ACTIVITIES	17	TRIAL OF FIRE KING WATER BOMBING HELICOPTER	32
CHANGES TO OUTCOME-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	18	SERVICE DELIVERY TO REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES	33
SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES WITH OTHER AGENCIES	18	VOLUNTEER SUPPORT	33
		RESEARCH	35
		BUSHFIRE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC)	35
		CLIMATE CHANGE	35
		WATER RESOURCES	35

MAJOR INCIDENT RESPONSE	36	3 SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS	47
CYCLONE	36	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REVIEWS	47
FIRE	36	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS	47
FLOOD	38	CHANGES IN WRITTEN LAW	47
LAND SEARCH	38		
MARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE	39	4 MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2008-09	48
STORMS	39	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 - PREVENTION SERVICES	48
RESCUE	39	FUTURES MONITORING	48
MAJOR EXERCISES	40	NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS	48
MULTIAGENCY SPECIAL RISKS	40	IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	48
EMERGO TRAIN MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISE	41	IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY WELFARE SYSTEMS FOR	
REGIONAL EXERCISES	42	STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS	48
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	43	STRATEGIES FOR ATTRACTION, RECRUITMENT AND	
NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION	43	RETENTION OF VOLUNTEERS	49
WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE EMERGENCIES	43	IMPROVED COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS	49
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY		IMPROVED ARSON INVESTIGATION, REPORTING AND	
ARRANGEMENTS (WANDRRA)	43	TARGETED REDUCTION	49
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	44	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 - EMERGENCY SERVICES	50
MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	44	IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAJOR REVIEWS	
MAJOR INCIDENT TRAINING	44	AND INQUIRIES	50
FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAINING	44	INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES	50
VOLUNTEER TRAINING	44	ENHANCED OPERATIONAL RESOURCING AND EMERGENCY	
COMMERCIAL TRAINING UNIT	46	RESPONSE CAPABILITIES	51
INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIPS	46	IMPROVED INTERAGENCY INTEROPERABILITY AND COMMUNICATION	51
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING	46		
TRAINING COMPLIANCE	46		

5 DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE	52	6 GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES	108
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	52	FESA BOARD MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2008	108
CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	52	AUDIT COMMITTEE	110
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	91	CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS	111
CERTIFICATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	91	BUSH FIRE SERVICE	111
DETAIL ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	92	FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	112
OUTCOMES BASED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE REVIEW	92	STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE	113
EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS	93	VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE SERVICE	114
EFFICIENCY INDICATORS	102	CONTRACTS WITH SENIOR OFFICERS	115
INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION	103	INDEMNITY INSURANCE	115
MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES AND COMMUNICATION	104		
OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES	104	7 OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	116
PRICING POLICIES OF SERVICES PROVIDED	104	COMPLIANCE WITH <i>PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT ACT SECTION 31(1)</i>	116
CAPITAL WORKS	105	ADVERTISING	117
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (WANDRRA)	105	DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN OUTCOMES	117
EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	106	RECORD KEEPING PLANS	118
		FREEDOM OF INFORMATION	119
		8 GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS	120
		CORRUPTION PREVENTION	120
		SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY	120
		SUSTAINABILITY	121
		OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH	121
		2007-08 PERFORMANCE RESULTS	121

GLOSSARY

AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council	NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
APSEA	Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards	SDC	State Disaster Council
AQTF	Australian Quality Training Framework	SES	State Emergency Service
AUSAR	Australian Search and Rescue	SECG	State Emergency Coordination Group
AWARE	All Western Australians Reducing Emergencies	SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
BFS	Bush Fire Service	SLIP-EM	Shared Land Information Platform – Emergency Management
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology	USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
BRAG	Bushfire Ready Action Group	VES	Volunteer Emergency Service
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre	VFRS	Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation	VFS	Volunteer Fire Service
DHW	Department of Housing and Works	VMRS	Volunteer Marine Rescue Service
DOAC	District Operations Advisory Committee	VMRWA	Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia
EMA	Emergency Management Australia	WAERHS	Western Australian Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service
ESC	Emergency Service Cadets	WAERN	Western Australian Emergency Radio Network
ESL	Emergency Services Levy	WANDRRA	Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
FESA	Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia		
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service		
GA	Geoscience Australia		
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials		
HEAT	Hazmat Emergency Advisory Team		
JAFFA	Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness		
NDMP	National Disaster Mitigation Program		

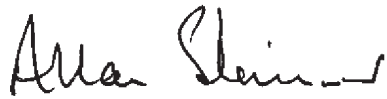
STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

HON. ROB JOHNSON, MLA

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the annual report of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

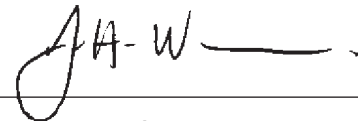
The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* as well as the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, the *Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998*, the *Fire Brigades Act 1942* and the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.



A Skinner

Chairman of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008



J Harrison-Ward

Member of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the end of another successful year, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) has made significant progress in achieving its vision of a safer community.

On behalf of the FESA Board and all Western Australians, I acknowledge the contribution that our staff and volunteers across the state have provided in achieving our success. Responding to emergency situations often requires our front-line personnel to work under difficult, stressful and potentially dangerous conditions. Also, the support of administrative personnel who develop prevention and mitigation strategies, provide training and education to improve understanding of risks and their potential impacts, and manage resourcing and capability should not be underestimated.

The development of our long term strategy *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* is a major step forward. Underpinned by specific plans for operations, people, assets and technology, it will also assist us to enhance governance and inform evidence-based decision making for long term planning.

As further research is undertaken to assess the potential impacts of climate change, we will continue to monitor how this may affect the demand for services across Western Australia and adapt our strategies to meet changing community needs.

It was extremely rewarding this year to receive recognition at the international, national and state level for our good work. We were awarded the Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Award in the Spatially Enabled Government category for tsunami planning, a joint project with Geoscience Australia. In November 2007, we received two Australian Safer Community Awards – the first for tsunami planning and the second for our *Visual Fuel Load Guide* and *Kimberley Bush Fire Burning and Fire Management Guidelines*. In addition, FESA received two state awards for procurement initiatives that improve sustainability and support regional development. These independent assessments recognise our constant drive to achieve excellence and deliver best practice.

An effective legislative framework is the foundation of effective service delivery. The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee Inquiry into emergency services legislation proposed a number of recommendations to improve emergency management within Western Australia.

One of the recommendations proposes that the current board of management be replaced with an advisory council. Expert opinion recognises that there are inherent difficulties related to boards of management, which include issues related to liability. The intention is that the new advisory council's membership would generally reflect that of the existing board of management. The proposal is supported by the current FESA Board members as a positive move, which will allow the views of volunteers to be legally represented without compromising the corporate position. The FESA Board is committed to working with the State Government to achieve an effective transition.

The commitment, interest and expertise of my fellow board members contribute to a sound governance framework for FESA. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the former Board Chair, Mr Mike Barnett, for his guidance over the past four years and for sharing his wealth of experience in relation to community issues. Finally, the FESA Board appreciates the former Minister's, the Hon. John Kobelke, MLA support, interest and guidance.



Allan Skinner PSM
BOARD CHAIR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

FESA now has a bold new strategic plan which clearly lays out the foundations for reshaping and transforming our exciting and progressive organisation to better suit future demands.

The completion of *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* is a long term strategic approach that encourages everyone in our organisation to think about developing the FESA of tomorrow. It provides a blueprint to introduce innovative and challenging concepts that will generate and set new standards to enhance our role as Western Australia's leading emergency services organisation.

At the core of FESA's new plan is recognition and support of the magnificent commitment and tireless efforts by our staff and volunteers. It is essential that we have the framework and resources in place to assist our people prepare for future challenges.

The development of the plan was one of a number of significant achievements for FESA during 2007-08 where our focus has been on getting back to basics in the way we plan for and deliver our emergency services.

Empowering communities to take responsibility and be better prepared in the event of an emergency is a key area that we actively promoted and supported during the year. Our goal is to build community resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and cope with emergencies – ultimately minimising their impact.

Improving emergency management planning and coordination was the catalyst for a restructure of our Perth metropolitan region, which was implemented in April 2008. The changes will strengthen inter-agency relationships and the appointment of a Director Operational Effectiveness will also promote consistency across the metropolitan area and generate operational input into research and development functions.

There were exciting developments for our aerial services with the successful trial of the American 'Fire King' helicopter over the 2007-08 southern fire season. In 46 missions the helicopter dropped 2.3 million litres of water and played a key role in protecting 47 properties from fire damage. FESA also established our aerial controlled burning team in the Kimberley.

Advances in computer technology are having a profound impact on the way FESA is developing new models and strategies. The continued integration of geospatial information systems into planning and response activities is delivering significant results. In addition, the launch of the FESA extranet is already proving a huge success with data showing increased use each quarter.

Our commitment to open and transparent communication and reporting has produced a range of new management and reporting tools. Quarterly performance monitoring through these reports will improve our governance processes and assist us in identifying our successes, opportunities for improvement and future challenges.

This year has been a significant milestone for FESA in setting the foundations and a new agenda for the future. Next year we will continue to build on these achievements as part of our leading role as an innovative and progressive emergency services organisation.

Finally, I would like to join our Chair in expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation to all our staff and volunteers for their dedication, professional skills and commitment that help serve and protect our community.



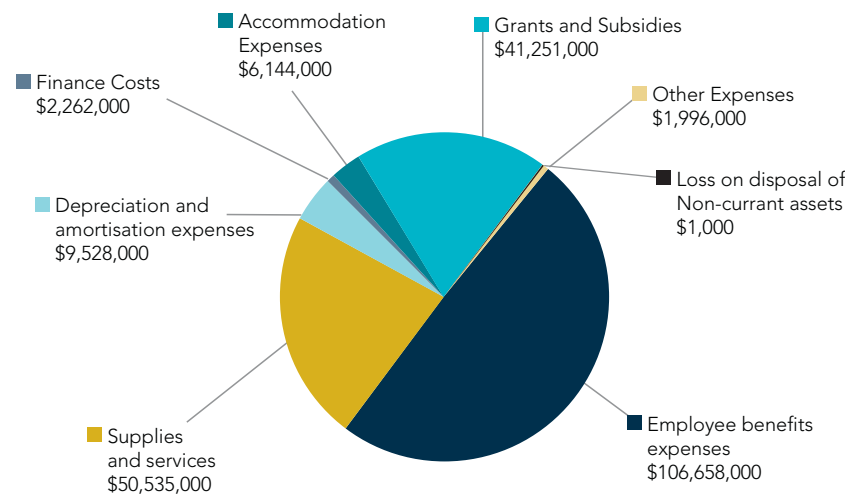
Jo Harrison-Ward
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Sources of Revenue	Total \$'000
Income	
User charges and fees	165,265
Commonwealth grants and contributions	5,950
Interest revenue	4,469
Other revenue	8,266
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	113
Total income other than from State Government	184,063
Income from State Government	
Service appropriation and contributions	46,631
Resources received free of charge	1,597
Total income from State Government	48,228

Total Cost of FESA Services 2007-08 (\$218,375,000)

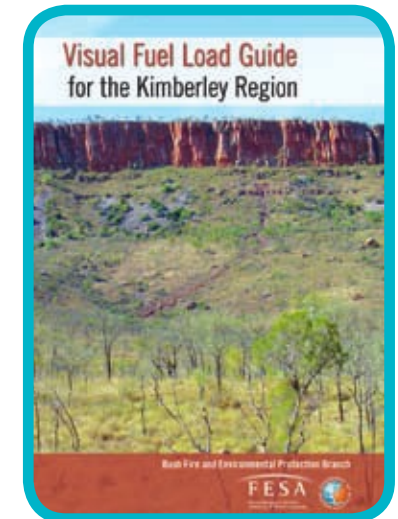


PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

FESA achieves its outcomes through the delivery of two services – prevention services and emergency services.

Highlights – Prevention Services

- Developed *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future*, a new planning and strategic management framework to guide future service delivery.
- Developed and implemented a suite of management reporting tools to support enhanced governance and performance monitoring.
- Developed guidelines to support volunteers in their governance responsibilities.
- Received a National Australian Safer Community Award for our *Visual Fuel Load Guide* and *Kimberley Bush Fire Burning and Fire Management Guidelines*, which aim to reduce the number of significant bushfires and resultant environmental degradation.
- Distributed best practice guidelines and tools to 120 Kimberley pastoralists.
- Supported Indigenous Land Corporation pastoral stations in fire management planning.
- Provided fire management training and resources for two Indigenous pastoral stations and two remote Indigenous communities through the Kimberley Land Council's Indigenous ranger training



program and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Management project.

- Enhanced an aerial controlled burning program in the Kimberley.
- Increased the number of pastoral and Indigenous Land Corporation stations participating in the controlled aerial burning program.
- Participated in the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Ecofire project in the Kimberley to include 15 pastoral stations, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) land, unallocated Crown Land and Native Reserves.
- Implemented targeted arson reduction initiatives with Western Australia Police in at-risk communities.

- Awarded the Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Award (APSEA) in the Spatially Enabled Government category for tsunami planning, a joint project with Geoscience Australia (GA).
- Received a National Australian Safer Community Award for tsunami impact modelling in partnership with GA.
- Completed tsunami impact modelling for Broome, Exmouth, Onslow, Karratha, Port Hedland and Dampier and commenced modelling for Carnarvon, Geraldton, Rockingham and Busselton.
- Continued the Shared Land Information Platform - Emergency Management (SLIP-EM) project and promoted the use of geospatial technology to support emergency services.
- Received three commendations for SLIP-EM from the State Spatial Sciences Institute.
- Completed flood plain mapping for the Swan and Avon valley catchment areas.
- Completed the first phase of a national project to evaluate the effectiveness of community safety programs.
- Continued to support the development of building safety standards through the Australian Building Codes Board and the building and construction industry.

- In cooperation with the Department of Housing and Works (DHW), progressed improvements to national construction standards for buildings in bushfire prone areas.
- Progressed the introduction of smoke alarm legislation in liaison with DHW.
- Completed an evaluation of our on-line services to improve stakeholder access to information.
- Adopted the national phone number for State Emergency Services assistance – 132 500.
- Continued research partnerships with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, industry groups and universities.

Highlights – Emergency Services

- Reviewed recommendations from the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee inquiry into emergency services legislation.
- Received recognition for procurement initiatives, winning two State Treasurer's Awards – the first for *Agency Specific Contracting - Western Australian Emergency Radio Network* and the second for *Regional Buying – Fire Fighting Appliances*.
- Conducted successful trials of new equipment provided through the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network in Narrogin, Karratha, Karijini and Esperance.

- Implemented the first version of a new real-time dispatch system – FESA Computer Aided Dispatch.
- Conducted an evaluation of aerial suppression aircraft and trialled a Sikorsky S-61 'Fire King' water bombing helicopter.
- Approved \$16.4 million to local governments through the Emergency Services Levy Grant Scheme to provide operational funding and capital resources for volunteer bush fire brigades and State Emergency Service units across the state.
- Developed a draft state resource strategy to improve emergency management capacity and capability in remote Indigenous communities.
- Developed standard facility 'footprints' for emergency service premises to provide greater efficiencies in delivering capital projects and fit-for-purpose design.
- Improved communications technology for regional emergency services through the launch of the FESA extranet, installation of new direct alarms in country volunteer stations and improved communication networks to regional offices.
- Assisted volunteers in addressing sustainability issues by providing resources to support volunteer attraction, recruitment and retention.

- Enhanced our volunteer rewards and recognition program with the introduction of new long service medals for the Volunteer Marine Rescue Service, the State Emergency Service and the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.
- Developed a nationally accredited Volunteer Employer Recognition Program to recognise supportive employers of emergency services volunteers and self-employed volunteers.
- Improved training for State Emergency Service and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) dogs.
- Completed capital building projects including a new fire station in Belmont, a regional office in Geraldton, volunteer collocated facilities in Manjimup and Mundaring and USAR training facilities.
- Completed heritage upgrades to Kalgoorlie fire station.
- Completed demountable specialist equipment platforms for career Fire and Rescue Service and associated carrier vehicles.
- Completed the medium tanker replacement program.

QUICK STATISTICS

Our People

As at 30 June 2008, we employed 1,244 full time staff and 38 part time/casual staff. Our average full- time equivalent during 2007-08 was 1,221.

We also support more than 30,000 volunteers who provide an invaluable contribution to achieving our vision of a safer community by delivering emergency services throughout Western Australia.

Volunteer Numbers as at 30 June 2008

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	1,781
Volunteer Bush Fire Service	24,901
State Emergency Service	1,827
Volunteer Marine Rescue Service	1,231
Volunteer Fire Service	265
Volunteer Emergency Services	510
Total	30,515

Cadets and Juniors

Emergency Services Cadet (ESC) units	44
Emergency Services Cadets	1,500
Adult volunteer instructors in ESC units	200
Junior Cadet Programs	73
Juniors in brigades, groups and units	400



EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING 2007-08

Our people respond to a wide range of emergency incidents as shown below.

Hazard – Incident Type (Career and volunteer fire services)	Number of incidents in 2007-08
Fires in a structure	1,538
Landscape fires, vegetation fires	6,670
Other property fires	4,251
Non fire rescue calls, including road crash rescues	1,686
Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) – including petrol or flammable spills and gas leaks	1,109
False alarms	10,362
Other emergency responses – including support to flood, storms, tempest and other natural disasters	1,748
Total responses provided by fire services	27,364

Hazard – Incident Type (State Emergency Service)	Number of incidents in 2007-08
Cyclone	5
Cliff rescue	6
Earthquake	0
Firefighting support	28
Flood	17
Road crash rescue	69
Land and air search	112
Storm	256
Temporary building repairs	112
Tsunami	3
Miscellaneous support	197
Total responses provided by State Emergency Service	815

Hazard – Incident Type (Volunteer Marine Rescue Service)	Number of incidents in 2007-08
Marine search and rescue	878
Total responses provided by Volunteer Marine Rescue Service	878

Response Type (Aerial Emergency Services)	2007-08	
	Number of Incidents	Flying Hours
Aerial rescue – RAC Rescue 1 (includes incidents and flying hours where fee for service was charged)	411	477
Aerial fire intelligence	96	553
Marine search and rescue	54	175



OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

Hon. Rob Johnson, MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA) was established in 1999 under the *Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998*, to improve the coordination and planning of emergency services in Western Australia.

FESA comprises the Bush Fire Service (BFS), Career Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS), the State Emergency Service (SES), Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Service (VMRS). In recent years, Volunteer Emergency Services (VES) units and Volunteer Fire Service (VFS) units have also been established.

Responsibility for administering the service level agreement for Surf Life Saving Western Australia's volunteer rescue operations was transferred to FESA on 1 December 2007. Surf Life Saving Western Australia comprises approximately 13,000 volunteer members across 27 Surf Life Saving clubs, which provide a range of essential services to the beach-going community of Western Australia.

OUR VISION

A safer community.

OUR MISSION

In partnership with the people of Western Australia to:

- Improve community safety practices.
- Provide timely, quality and effective emergency services.

OUR VALUES

- Put the community first.
- Work together as a committed team.
- Respect and value each other.
- Continuously improve our services.
- Act with integrity and honesty.
- Have open and honest two-way communications.
- Strive to keep ourselves and others safe.

OUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We have adopted an all-hazards approach to emergency management, working in partnership with the community and other agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

FESA is the hazard management agency in Western Australia for:

- Fires – rural and urban fires in gazetted fire districts.
- Fires – on Department of Environment and Conservation managed land in gazetted fire districts.
- Hazardous materials incidents.
- Floods.
- Cyclones.
- Severe storms.
- Earthquakes.
- Tsunamis.
- Landslides.

We also provide combat and support services, including communications, for:

- Marine search and rescue.
- Land search.
- Air search and rescue (including emergency casualty transport).
- Urban search and rescue.
- Cliff, cave and confined space rescue.
- Road transport emergencies.
- Rail transport emergencies.
- Animal disease outbreaks.

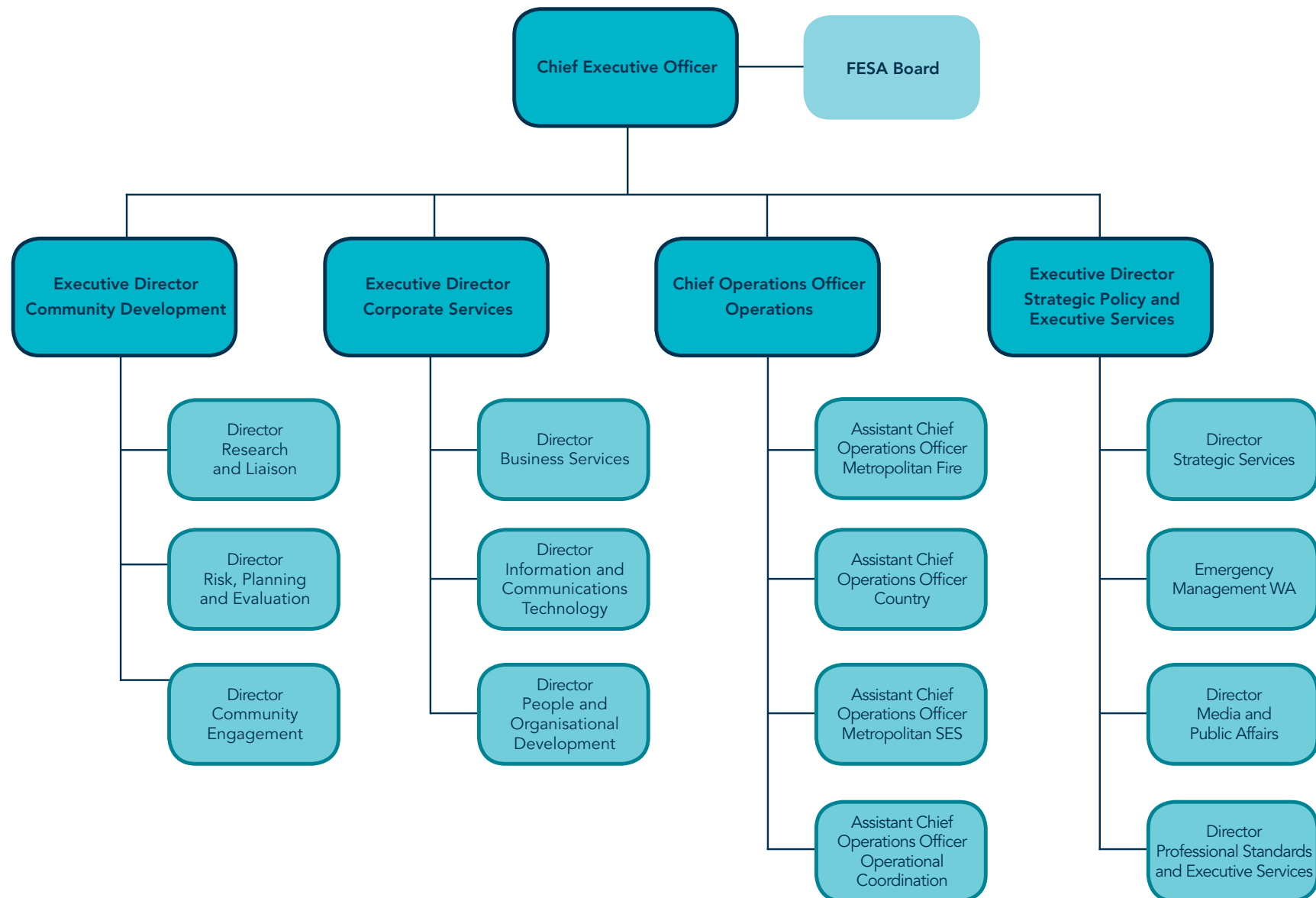
We facilitate State emergency management capacity building through:

- Development of State policy and plans.
- Management of the [Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements](#).
- Development of mitigation initiatives.

We also provide advice and support on emergency management issues to key stakeholders at the local, state and national levels, including:

- Maintenance of state emergency management legislation.
- Support to the [State Emergency Management Committee](#) and the [State Emergency Coordination Group](#).
- Participation in state and national strategic working groups.
- Provision of emergency management training in conjunction with [Emergency Management Australia](#).

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



THE FESA BOARD

Section 6 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998* established the FESA Board of Management and states:

The Board is the governing body of the Authority and, in the name of the Authority, is to perform the functions of the Authority under the Emergency Services Acts.

The FESA Board continues to be accountable to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and is responsible for:

- Determining FESA's strategic direction and overall performance.
- Ensuring FESA's compliance with key legislation.
- Endorsing management initiatives.

Responsibilities are delegated to the chief executive officer under the provisions of the FESA Act, with all approved delegations held on a delegations register. Through this governance process, the FESA Board is able to devolve necessary authority and responsibility to staff and volunteers while preserving the controls necessary for accountability.

Members of the Board are appointed based on their experience in areas relevant to FESA's activities. The profiles of current FESA [Board members](#) are provided in the Disclosure and Legal Compliance section of this report.

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE

FESA's corporate structure comprises four portfolios that coordinate and deliver key prevention and emergency services.

Portfolio	Key Responsibilities
Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of community education and training programs. • Research and liaison in order to minimise the impact of emergencies on the community and the environment. • Risk planning and evaluation, including information management, corporate planning and reporting.
Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and organisational development, including workplace management, human resources consultancy, personnel and payroll, health safety and welfare, training delivery and volunteer and youth support. • Development and maintenance of information technology and telecommunications systems. • Business services, including development and maintenance of property and fleet, and financial management.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and delivery of operational services through the BFS, FRS, SES, VES, VFS and VMRS including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency response and incident control. - Capability development. - State hazard planning. - Special risk planning.
Strategic Policy and Executive Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media and public affairs. • Development of strategic emergency management policy and procedures. • Stakeholder liaison and support. • Monitoring professional standards. • Development of strategic policy and planning.

Our corporate executive team is comprised of the chief executive officer and the portfolio executive directors.

Ms Jo Harrison-Ward, MLM

(Chief Executive Officer)

Ms Harrison-Ward has 15 years experience in the public service and has held a number of senior roles related to the delivery of emergency services. She received a Churchill Fellowship in 2004 to study *Engaging the Community in Emergency Management*.

Mr Craig Hynes, BCom

(Chief Operations Officer)

Mr Hynes has 23 years of experience in the fire and emergency services industry and has held a range of key roles.

Mr John Butcher

(Executive Director Strategic Policy and Executive Services)

Mr Butcher has more than 30 years of experience working in the public sector.

Mr Frank Pasquale, BCom

(Executive Director Corporate Services)

Mr Pasquale has 19 years of experience working in the public sector.

Ms Karen Roberts, MHumR

(Executive Director Community Development)

Ms Roberts has more than 25 years of experience working in the public sector.

ADMINISTERED LEGISLATION

FESA administers the following Acts along with associated, subsidiary legislation:

- *Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998*
- *Fire Brigades Act 1942*
- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Emergency Management Act 2005*

OTHER KEY LEGISLATION IMPACTING ON FESA'S ACTIVITIES

In performing its functions, FESA complies with the following legislation:

- *A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*
- *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Australian Crime Commission Act 2004 (Commonwealth)*

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)*
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*
- *Criminal Code*
- *Criminal Procedure Act 2004*
- *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Duties Act 2008*
- *Electoral Act 1907*
- *Electronic Transactions Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Evidence Act 1906*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Act 1985*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986 (Commonwealth)*
- *Government Employees' Housing Act 1964*

- *Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000*
- *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*
- *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (Commonwealth)*
- *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Commonwealth)*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Land Tax Assessment Act 2002*
- *Legal Profession Act 2008*
- *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*
- *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*

- *Payroll Tax Assessment Act 2002*
- *Perth Parking Management Act 1999*
- *Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Road Traffic Act 1974*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *Stamp Act 1921*
- *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *Tax Administration Act 1953 (Commonwealth)*
- *Water Boards Act 1904*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*
- *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*
- *Workplace Relations Act 1996 (Commonwealth)*

CHANGES TO OUTCOME-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Our outcome-based management framework did not change during 2007-08. However, a comprehensive review of our framework has commenced and changes will be implemented in 2008-09.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The [State Emergency Management Committee](#) (SEMC) is the peak emergency management body in Western Australia. We provide executive and secretariat support for the committee. Membership includes representatives appointed by the Minister from those organisations that are essential to the state's emergency management arrangements. SEMC's role is to:

- Advise the Minister on emergency management and the preparedness of the state to combat emergencies.

- Provide direction, advice and support to public authorities, industry, commerce and the community in order to plan and prepare for an efficient emergency management capability in Western Australia.
- Provide a forum for whole-of-community coordination to ensure the minimisation of the effects of emergencies.
- Provide a forum for the development of community wide information systems to improve communications during emergencies.

- Develop and coordinate risk management strategies to assess community vulnerability to emergencies.
- Arrange for the preparation of state emergency management policies and plans.
- Prepare an annual report on its activities.
- Monitor and review the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and its regulations.

We also provide secretariat services for the [State Mitigation Committee](#). The committee's role is to minimise the impact of natural hazards on people, property and the environment.

“We provide executive and secretariat support to the State Emergency Management Committee and to the State Mitigation Committee”

Other emergency management responsibilities that we administer on behalf of Western Australian stakeholders include coordination of:

- National emergency management training.
- Coordination of emergency relief and recovery funding provided through the [Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements](#).



RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT GOALS

Broad, high-level government goals are supported at an agency level by more specific objectives and outcomes. The following table illustrates the relationship between FESA's services and the government goals.

Government Goal	Desired Outcome	Services
Goal 1: Enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services. Outcome 1.3: A safe community	The impact of human and natural hazards on the community of Western Australia is minimised.	1. Prevention Services 2. Emergency Services

OUR AGENCY LEVEL DESIRED OUTCOME

The impact of human and natural hazards on the community of Western Australia is minimised.

OUR SERVICES

We achieve our outcome through:

- Provision of **prevention services** to increase community awareness of human and natural hazards, and involvement in minimising their impact.
- Provision of **emergency services** to enable timely and effective response to emergency incidents to minimise their impact.

Our outcome statement and services are aligned to the State Government's *Strategic Planning Framework: Better Planning: Better Futures* and contribute to the achievement of Government Goal 1 – Better Services, specifically Strategic Outcome 1.3: A safe community.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

RESOURCE AGREEMENT

The following performance information (financial and non-financial) is the subject of a resource agreement signed by the Minister, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia and Treasurer under Part 3, Division 5 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

FINANCIAL TARGETS

	2007-08 Target ⁽¹⁾ \$000	2007-08 Actual \$000	Variation ⁽²⁾ \$000
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from income statement)	197,844	218,375	20,351
Net cost of services (sourced from income statement)	26,961	34,312	7,351
Total equity (sourced from balance sheet)	138,453	244,100	105,647
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held (sourced from cash flow statement)	(4,426)	(11,721)	(7,295)
Approved full time equivalent staff level	1,191⁽³⁾	1,221⁽⁴⁾	30⁽⁵⁾

(1) As specified in the budget statements for 2007-08.

(2) Explanations for the variations between estimated and actual financial results are contained in Note 35 'Explanatory Statement' to the financial statements.

(3) 16 additional FTEs were agreed during 2007-08 bringing the approved total to 1,207.

(4) 1,221 was the average employment level during 2007-08.

(5) The reason for the variation in average FTE level versus our budget target is the programing of three firefighter recruitment schools.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	2007-08 Target	2007-08 Actual	Reason for Significant Variation between 2007-08 Target and Actual
Outcome: The impact of human and natural hazards on the community of Western Australia is minimised.			
KEY EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS: Number of accidental residential fires per 100,000 households Note: a lower result indicates better performance.	90 ^(a)	67.6	A maximum of 70 fires per 100,000 households is a more appropriate benchmark based on past performance.
Proportion of structural fires confined to object/room of origin	80.7% ^(a)	67.5%	The target of 80.7% stated in the budget paper was incorrect. The target for this indicator, based on past performance was 65%. Results for 2007-08 show an improvement compared to the result of 66% for 2006-07.
KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS Service 1: Prevention Services Provision of prevention services to increase community awareness of human and natural hazards, and involvement in minimising their impact.			
Total prevention programs delivered ^(b)	50	20	The targets for total prevention programs and average cost were incorrect. The correct target for total programs was 20. The adjusted target for average cost based on 20 programs was \$1,189.05.
Total prevention expenditure \$'000	23,781	21,517	
Average cost per prevention service \$'000	1,189.05	1,075.85	
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	151	153	

(a) FESA's review of its outcome-based management structure during 2008-09 will include revision of targets to ensure that they are appropriate.

(b) The total prevention programs include community prevention campaigns, community awareness campaigns and emergency management training for local governments and other stakeholders.

Our results show that we have met or exceeded our effectiveness targets in 2007-08. The results for the number of accidental residential fires and containment of structure fires show an improvement compared to last year.

Our average cost per prevention service is below budget. Total prevention expenditure has decreased, which has brought the average cost per prevention service down.

	2007-08 Target	2007-08 Actual	Reason for Significant Variation between 2007-08 Target and Actual
KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS			
Service 2: Emergency Services			
Provision of emergency services to enable rapid and effective response to emergency incidents to minimise their impact.			
Number of operational personnel ready to respond to emergencies	30,900	31,511	
Total emergency services expenditure \$'000	169,563	192,193 ^(a)	Variance is as a result of unbudgeted payments through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, wildfire suppression and other major incident support, which totalled \$25 million.
Average cost per operational personnel \$'000	5.49	6.10	
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	1,040	1,053	
Average cost per prevention service \$'000	1,189.05	1,075.85	
WA Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service			
Western Australian Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service (WAERHS) mission hours	330	369 ^(b)	
Total WAERHS expenditure \$'000	4,500	4,665 ^(c)	
Average cost per mission hours \$'000	13.64	12.64	

(a) Excludes cost of WAERHS

(b) Excludes missions where fee for service is charged

(c) Excludes fee for service revenue and sponsorship funding

Our average cost per operational personnel ready to respond has increased slightly this year. Our results also show an increase in the number of operational personnel ready to respond, which is primarily due to an increase in volunteers. Whilst it would appear that we did not meet the 2007-08 target for average cost per operational personnel, it should be noted that the total emergency services expenditure for 2007-08 included \$25 million of unbudgeted costs mainly relating to payments through the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and for wildfire suppression.

The efficiency indicator results for the WAERHS show an average cost per mission hour that is slightly below the budgeted target. Although total costs show a slight increase, the number of mission hours flown has increased this year.

More detailed explanation of performance, including trend information, is provided in the [Disclosures and Legal Compliance section](#) of this report.

OUR FOCUS FOR 2007-08

During 2007-08, our primary objective was to renew our focus on the fundamental elements of delivering effective and efficient prevention and emergency services to achieve a safer community.

In line with our 2005-07 strategic plan, we concentrated on three key areas:

- Community-centred emergency management.
- Quality people services.
- Sound business practices.

PREVENTION SERVICES

Key objectives for prevention services were:

- Improving evidence-based decision making through enhanced governance, performance monitoring and open and transparent reporting.
- Continuation of the promotion and encouragement of community safety through improved planning and mitigation of hazards.
- Maximising research and technology to support strategy development.
- Improving access to information through state-of-the-art technology.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Key objectives for emergency services were:

- Continuation of the development of the emergency services legislative framework.
- Progressing communications and technology projects to improve interoperability, coordination of emergency service response and access to information.
- Undertaking evaluation trials on the effectiveness of aerial fire suppression aircraft.
- Identifying risks and resourcing needs for Indigenous communities.
- Providing equitable funding and resourcing for volunteers based on risk.
- Improving support to volunteers through better communications, recruitment and recognition.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007-08 – PREVENTION SERVICES

FESA 2023 SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Background

The objective of the FESA Futures project in 2006-07 was to consider and address an increasingly uncertain future by identifying emerging trends and potential future operating environments. The project team used scenario based planning to consider industry and technology developments as well as the potential impact of demographic and climate change on future service delivery requirements.

The project assisted us to understand the importance of building an outward looking, creative, adaptive and sustainable culture within our organisation.

Objective

Our objective for 2007-08 was to improve our long term planning through the development of a new strategic management and planning framework. This would clearly articulate our strategic direction in the longer term while allowing us to remain flexible enough to deal with changing service delivery requirements.

Solution

The [FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future](#) document will guide the development

of long term strategies that reflect changes in our operating environment. It encourages us to consider the potential impacts of issues such as demographic and climate change on our service delivery requirements and methods. It will embed a long term planning approach across the organisation to ensure we remain flexible and sustainable.

FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future comprises four key long term strategic directions:

- A leading emergency services organisation.
- A future-focused organisation.
- An integrated organisation.
- Valued and capable people.

Planning will focus on improving four key areas – staff and volunteers, the community, the development of services and the delivery of services.

Results

The clear articulation of the strategic direction through our strategic management framework, *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future*, will assist us in aligning our services to outcomes that support the achievement of government goals.

Our new planning framework is a tiered system that supports whole-of-

government goals and flows through to individual performance agreements.

The strategy will be implemented in three five-year stages, supported by specific plans for operations, people, assets and technology. The annual plan details key milestones and projects to be achieved each financial year as part of longer term strategies. Individual performance agreements for key personnel will assist functional teams

to understand the part they play in achieving organisational goals and outcomes.

The future

Our focus during 2008-09 will be on developing mechanisms for horizon scanning and research to ensure *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* remains current. This will ensure we are able to meet a constantly changing environment and support evidence based decision making and long term planning.

Strategic Management and Planning Framework



ENHANCED GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

Corruption Prevention and Professional Standards

We have continued to provide workplace training for staff and volunteers about professional standards with regard to corruption and misconduct.

A presentation package relating to the new *WA Code of Ethics* that came into effect in February 2008 is being developed and will be rolled out during 2008-09.

Our Professional Standards directorate is dedicated to improving service delivery standards and supporting similar aims within our volunteer organisations. The directorate has a specific focus on supporting an environment in which high standards of conduct and integrity are commonplace. They are also responsible for strengthening organisational resistance to misconduct and corruption.

Improved Monitoring and Reporting

We have developed a suite of monitoring and reporting tools to track progress against key indicators, assist in efficient management of capital infrastructure projects and help us to evaluate our performance against our agreed plans and objectives, industry and public sector benchmarks.

State of the Service

The [State of the Service](#) report provides an annual summary of the capability of FESA and Western Australian local governments to respond to emergencies. It encompasses infrastructure, equipment, appliances and other assets and outlines the extent of resourcing to FESA and local government emergency services since 2003-04.

Quarterly Organisation Performance Report

This report tracks performance against key performance indicators and other measures across our organisation to assist our corporate leadership team and the FESA Board with decision making and strategy development. During 2008-09, we will review our targets against current industry and public sector standards to support future planning initiatives.

Quarterly Infrastructure Planning Report

This report monitors our *Capital Works Investment Plan*, which includes major land and building projects, information technology and communications projects, vehicle and equipment projects, and projects funded through the [Emergency Services Levy Grants Scheme](#). It tracks progress against schedule and budget allowing early identification of issues and strategy adjustment to manage them.

“Our suite of monitoring and reporting tools assist in efficient management of capital infrastructure projects and evaluation of performance”

Volunteer Governance Education Program

A \$50,000 grant from [Emergency Management Australia](#) (EMA) through the [National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund](#) is being used to develop guidelines, policies and procedures to guide volunteer behaviour and minimise the risk of non-compliance with governance responsibilities.

Our aim is to improve availability of information on issues such as equal opportunity, including discrimination and harassment, grievance handling, discipline, codes of behaviour and ethical decision making.

Production of a volunteer governance DVD and supporting training programs to educate and inform volunteers on these issues has commenced. It is anticipated this project will be completed in 2008-09.

A new volunteer website has also been launched. This addresses governance education to some extent by providing instant access to current guidelines, policies and procedures.

Working with Children

We have implemented processes for staff and volunteers to manage the requirements of the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* which has applied to all Western Australians from 1 January 2006.

An extensive communication program for staff and volunteers has raised the awareness of both the legislative requirements and assistance available.

NATURAL HAZARD PLANNING

Fire Management Planning and Hazard Reduction in the Kimberley and Pilbara

Reducing the incidence of large wildfires in the Kimberley and Pilbara is fundamental to avoiding the loss of pastoral land and sensitive environmental belts. We are taking a collaborative approach with pastoralists, Indigenous landowners and other community stakeholders to identify and manage bushfire threats.

Our new *Visual Fuel Load Guide and Kimberley Bush Fire Burning and Fire Management Guidelines* received industry acclaim and won a National [Australian Safer Community Award](#) in February 2008.

These best practice guidelines and tools will assist in protecting the natural environment from bush fires. They also establish a sound basis for improved bush fire management and awareness, enhancing community safety for Western Australians.

In 2007-08, the guidelines were provided to 120 Kimberley pastoralists and 16 took up our offer of no-charge fire management planning. Eight Indigenous Land Corporation pastoral stations have requested support.

Three key projects support the reduction of bush fires in the Kimberley.

Aerial Controlled Burning Program (ACB)

A joint FESA/Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) program using one fixed-wing aircraft for controlled burning to reduce fuel loads was completed on 26 stations in 2007. This year, we implemented our own aerial controlled burning program across 40 pastoral stations, including all eight Indigenous Land Corporation stations.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Kimberley Ecofire Project

The [Australian Wildlife Conservancy Kimberley Ecofire](#) project is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust and aims to protect ecosystems and biodiversity through customised fire management strategies. FESA is a key stakeholder and steering committee member. The project was expanded in 2008 to include 15 pastoral stations, DEC land, unallocated Crown land and native reserves. We assisted with fire management planning resources and provided training for two Indigenous pastoral stations and two remote Indigenous communities.

Dry Season Campaign

Fire management planning is supported by targeted arson-reduction initiatives such as 'Operation Branockburn', implemented throughout the North West by the Western Australia Police and FESA. An extensive dry season media and promotional campaign was launched in Fitzroy Crossing in July 2007 to target inappropriate fire lighting by tourists, pastoralists and members of the local community.

TSUNAMI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Background

As a result of the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26 December 2004, Australian Government funding of \$68.9 million over four years was committed to enhance the Australian Tsunami Alert System and establish the [Australian Tsunami Warning Centre](#).

This project is based on a partnership between Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

Objective

As the hazard management agency for tsunamis in Western Australia, FESA is responsible for community preparation and response. It is also our responsibility to develop the *State Tsunami Emergency Management Plan*.

Solution

We established a dedicated project manager to lead the tsunami project in Western Australia and work with other states, Emergency Management Australia, GA and BoM.

We also formed a collaborative research partnership with GA to assess the threat tsunami poses to Western Australia's coast and to underpin the development of the *State Tsunami Emergency Management Plan*.

Results

The collaborative research partnership between GA and FESA sought to develop and apply state-of-the-art science to model tsunami risk and achieve effective communication of this science to inform and to provide a basis for local emergency management plans and response arrangements.

The *State Tsunami Emergency Management Plan* is in final draft and we are seeking final comment prior to its presentation to the State Emergency Management Committee and the Emergency Services Sub Committee in late 2008.

The plan is supported by the spatially-enabled modelling of tsunami risk developed by FESA and GA. This includes maps and geospatial datasets.

Tsunami impact modelling has been completed for Broome, Exmouth, Onslow, Karratha, Port Hedland and Dampier in the North West and modelling for Carnarvon, Geraldton, Rockingham and Busselton has commenced.

Pilbara, Kimberley and Great Southern local risk plans have been completed. Plans are now being developed for the Mid West, South West and Metropolitan regions.

Community briefings and workshops for senior officers and emergency responders were conducted and procedures tested in January and February 2008.

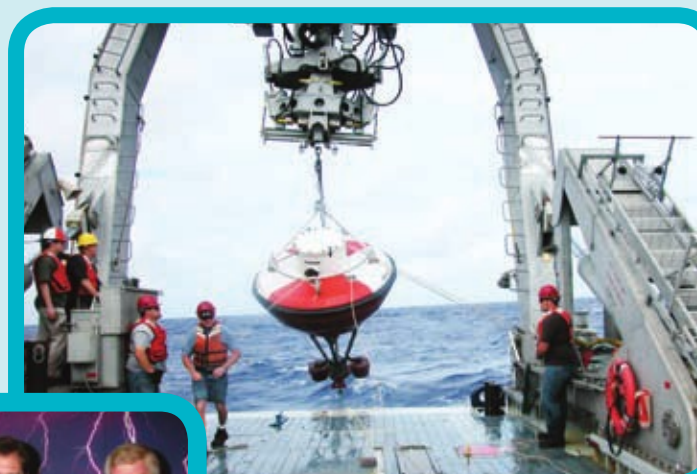
In November 2007, GA and FESA received an [Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Award](#) in the *Spatially Enabled Government* category for their work on tsunami risk modelling for emergency management. This award recognises projects that use spatial information and technology to improve government productivity, efficiency and service delivery, and integrate 'customer-centric' service delivery models.

In February 2008, the project also won the Emergency Management Australia award for Pre Disaster – Projects of National Significance.

The future

Work is continuing at a national level to standardise signage and community information messages.

A tsunami simulation tank will form part of the water hazard exhibit at the Fire and Emergency Services Education and Heritage Centre scheduled to open in early 2009.



TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

Geospatial Technology

Spatial information, including maps, has an essential role in the management and coordination of any major emergency event. It is critical that all operational staff can clearly understand the geography of the region, the specific logistical information for the event and the entrance and exit routes within the affected region. In many instances in Australia and overseas, reviews of major emergency events have highlighted the fact that various agencies and personnel involved use different base mapping or have minimal access to current, purpose-built maps.

Our geospatial information systems team has a dual role in supporting both prevention and emergency services. They produce maps to assist with risk identification and prevention planning within the regions and provide general technical advice and training in the use of geospatial technology to the broader organisation.

The [Shared Land Information Platform – Emergency Management \(SLIP – EM\)](#), the *State Government's Geospatial Communications and Information Transfer Initiative*, is a program that will ensure that Western Australian emergency services organisations can access mapping data, geospatial information systems and specialists. The program focuses on the range of information available and ease

of web-based access to better inform emergency service delivery. In emergencies, agencies can share real-time, accurate data on assets and infrastructure, community locations, and environmental and hazardous risk areas.

The latest emergency services directories for the South West region were published in March 2008. The directories are available in paper and digital formats to support emergency management activities. The next emergency services directory to be produced will cover the Great Southern (coastal) region.

This technology has also been used to support a joint project with the Department of Water to map flood plain area data for the Swan and Canning Rivers. Mapping has been completed for 1 in 10 through to 1 in 100 event scenarios. A worst-case scenario is to be further investigated and local risk plans developed in 2008-09.

The deployment of geospatial information system specialists to major emergencies assists incident management teams to develop effective response strategies and forward planning.

In the past year, the team has supported operations including:

- Land search and rescues at Norseman, Laverton and Willyabrup.

- Bush fires at Ballajura, Sawyers Valley and Muchea.
- A Kewdale factory fire.
- Tropical cyclones Nicholas and Melanie.

The SLIP-EM project received three commendations in the 2007 [State Spatial Sciences Institute Awards](#).

Review of Online Services

Online services are becoming an increasingly important communication tool for both internal and external stakeholders. Our staff and volunteers require access to accurate corporate and operational information to support their roles. Our external stakeholders and the community require access to clear, timely hazard information to assist them in preparing for and managing the impact of emergencies.

Our objective is to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of online information in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies.

During the year, focus groups were conducted with stakeholders to gauge user perceptions of the FESA internet, intranet and extranet sites. A review report detailing recommendations, transition plan and cost summary has been prepared. The recommendations will be considered and prioritised for implementation during 2008-09.



Adoption of National State Emergency Service

Request for Assistance Number – 132 500

The new phone number to request State Emergency Service (SES) assistance was launched in Western Australia in November 2007.

We implemented a comprehensive, integrated marketing and promotional strategy to raise public awareness of the new number 132 500 across a range of media and community groups.

This included a highly visible gathering of SES volunteers in the Murray Street Mall on 'Wear Orange Wednesday' (WOW Day) to celebrate National SES Week from 10 to 18 November.

SES volunteers on foot, horseback and in vehicles delivered information on the new 132 500 number. Further orange themed 132 500 promotional events were conducted by local SES units across the state.

Adoption of the national 132 500 number has several significant advantages including:

- A centralised and coordinated approach to call answer strategies.
- Improved national branding for the SES, raising the profile of Western Australian SES members and potentially increasing recruitment.
- An easily and readily recognised number for all members of the community, including visitors from interstate, for SES assistance.

- Improved reporting on SES activities across Western Australia.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Building Standards and Mitigation

We work closely with the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and the building and construction industry to improve fire and emergency standards in buildings and structures in Western Australia.

This year we have progressed improvements to fire safety in commercial buildings and the national construction standard for buildings in bush fire prone areas.

The current dynamic nature of the commercial building industry resulted in an 18 percent increase in building plans submitted to FESA for assessment against firefighting requirements under the Building Code of Australia. The proportion of plans involving alternative or fire engineered design solutions, which require more detailed assessment, also rose during 2007-08.

Together with DHW, we are also progressing legislation requiring mains-powered smoke alarms to be fitted to residential buildings on the sale of a property or change in tenancy agreement.

In partnership with local governments, we have continued the special risk project which targets high-risk buildings, including backpacker hostels and nightclubs.

Evaluation of Community Safety Education Programs

The 2003 Council of Australian Governments' [Report on Natural Disasters in Australia](#) highlighted the need to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of community safety education programs.

FESA currently chairs the project group managing a national review of community education, awareness and engagement programs for natural disasters.

The final report on phase one of the project was endorsed in February 2008. This identified nearly 300 natural hazard programs nationally in six broad categories:

1. Warnings.
2. Public information provision.
3. Localised information provision.
4. Localised community engagement and education activities.
5. Community consultation, collaboration and development approach.
6. Other (activities that incidentally reduce risk, such as training activities).

During phase two the theory model of natural disaster community safety programs developed during phase one will be applied and tested.

In conjunction with the national project, we have commenced reviews of key community programs including:

- **Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness – JAFFA**

A workshop with juvenile support officers has been conducted. Program materials and case management resources have been prepared for external review.

- **Bush Fire Ready Action Groups – BRAG**

A review is being undertaken as part of the [Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre Community Self Sufficiency for Fire Safety](#) project. This has included discussion and consultation through focus groups and detailed interviews.

- **All Western Australians Reducing Emergencies – AWARE**

A community survey of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to [AWARE](#) and emergency management and community safety in general was conducted.

Recommendations include strengthening the partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association in order to improve awareness of the objectives of the program and improve outcomes for local governments by developing a more structured approach to the allocation of funding and delivery of training.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2007-08 – EMERGENCY SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Community Development and Justice Standing Committee Inquiry into Emergency Services Legislation.

This [Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's inquiry](#) made 88 recommendations.

Given the number and scale of recommendations, a phased approach to their assessment and implementation is being taken.

Recommendations implemented, or in the process of being implemented, include addressing issues related to the use of slip-on units by bushfire brigades and the drafting of amendments to the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* to reflect current day requirements.

INCIDENT COORDINATION

Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) project

Now in its first full year of implementation, the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network will provide fixed communications infrastructure and mobile dual-band radios to support greater interoperability and communication.

Equipment was successfully trialled in the Shire of Esperance during the 2007-08 fire season resulting in extended radio coverage, removal of communications black spots and greatly improved radio transmission clarity.

The implementation schedule for 2008-09 focuses on the Great Southern region extending into the South West region. Further pilot projects will also be conducted in the outer metropolitan areas so implementation planning can commence.

Implementation of a Real-time Dispatch System

The Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch and Communications systems (ES-CADCOM) project will improve the delivery, coordination, efficiency and management of Western Australian emergency services.

The new FESA Computer Aided Dispatch (FESA-CAD) system includes functionality such as state wide mapping with aerial photography and satellite images and automatic vehicle location and status tracking.

FESA-CAD was successfully implemented in 2007-08 after two and a half years development.

AERIAL SERVICES

Since the introduction of helicopters for aerial suppression in 2003-04, annual funding for emergency air services has increased from \$1.8 million to \$11.8 million. This has enabled an increase from four aircraft in 2003-04 to 15 in 2007-08.

During 2007-08, real-time reporting was made available to the air operations team through a new online application developed by the FESA information and communications technology team. It collates incident data related to aircraft and is an important management, reporting, training and budgeting tool.

Aerial Intelligence Helicopter

Aircraft are used for aerial observation and reconnaissance across the state. They monitor and report on wildfires, are used to transport equipment and personnel to incidents and provide invaluable intelligence to incident management teams for fires, search and rescue operations, cyclones and floods.

Aerial Fire Suppression

Aerial fire suppression can significantly reduce the size of bush fires, minimising the loss of fauna and flora as well as the time response crews need to spend combating the fire. Aerial suppression is also used

to improve the safety of crews on the ground. During 2007-08, eight fixed-wing water bombers, four helicopter water bombers (Helitacs), a 'Fire King' helicopter and an air intelligence helicopter were used in operations. Aerial suppression saved 10 properties from being destroyed by fire and protected a further 47 from fire damage.

State legislation permits fire services to utilise appropriate water supplies for the purpose of protecting life and the suppression of fire. Fixed-wing aircraft use water supplies at their base location and need to return to base to refill. The Helitacs have the capacity to pick up water from dams, lakes or other watercourses that may be close to the fire. In areas where these water sources are unavailable, portable tanks are established in strategic locations to provide a water supply.

The fixed-wing bombers have capacities varying from 2,500 to 3,200 litres and are based at Jandakot, Bunbury, Manjimup and Albany. Their primary objective is to keep fires small through aggressive initial attack. Capable of rapid deployment, their aim is to place 5,000 litres of water on a fire within the first 30 minutes of ignition.

During 2007-08, fixed-wing water bombers flew a total of 518 operational hours in the South West and Perth

outer metropolitan areas. The air attack supervisor helicopter flew another 416 hours. The bombers attended 99 fires and completed 938 water drops.

Four Helitacs complement initial fixed-wing water bombing in urban and rural-urban fringe areas of Perth. With 1,100 litres capacity, the Helitacs are extremely productive in delivering sustained attacks on fires.

In 2007-08, the Helitacs flew more than 553 operational hours over 96 incidents and delivered a total of 5.05 million litres of water.

Aerial Controlled Burning

Prior to this year, the program was delivered with the Department of Environment and Conservation. During 2007-08, we delivered our own program across 40 pastoral stations in the Kimberley using a leased helicopter. The program reduces bush fire hazards by reducing fuel loads and installing strategically placed firebreaks.

Aerial fire suppression can significantly reduce the size of bush fires, minimising the loss of fauna and flora as well as the time response crews need to spend combating the fire

RAC Rescue 1

The RAC Rescue 1 emergency rescue helicopter provides a 24-hour, seven-day service within 200 kilometres of Perth. Crewed by a pilot, crewman and St John Ambulance critical care paramedic, it can be airborne and en-route within 15 minutes.

RAC Rescue 1 is funded by the Western Australian and Australian Governments with the RAC as principal sponsor. It undertakes an average of 330 missions a year at a current cost of approximately \$4.5 million.

During 2007-08 RAC Rescue 1 undertook its one thousandth mission.



TRIAL OF FIRE KING WATER BOMBING HELICOPTER

Background

Western Australia's aerial fire suppression fleet consists of 2,500 to 3,200 litre capacity fixed-wing water bombers and 1,100 litre capacity water bombing helicopters (Helitacs). The fixed-wing aircraft provide effective aggressive initial attack capacity for fires in the South West and Perth's urban fringe areas, while the Helitacs provide sustained suppression in urban and rural-urban fringe areas of Perth. Both types of aircraft are highly effective. However, the Helitacs are largely restricted to urban and outer metropolitan use. Many rural areas of Western Australia do not have the benefit of aerial fire suppression support.

Objective

It was decided to evaluate the effectiveness of a larger capacity, longer range water bombing helicopter for rural bush fire suppression during the 2007-08 south west summer fire season.

Solution

A Sikorsky S-61 Fire King helicopter with a 4,000 litre capacity was selected for trial. It can be refilled in just 30 seconds and administer multiple drops in a range of configurations. The Fire King has an operating range of 650 kilometres and can be deployed long

distances. It can transport up to 15 personnel and emergency equipment. The Western Australian Government met the Fire King's operating costs and shared its fixed costs with the Australian Government, a total state contribution of \$1.4 million.

Results

The Fire King operated from Perth and was deployed mainly in the south west of the state.

It played a significant role in suppressing a major bush fire at Parkerville in January 2008. Working in tandem with Helitacs, it was invaluable in containing the fire and protecting property and the community.

The Fire King was also deployed to assist with fires in the Fitzgerald National Park near Bremer Bay. It ferried operational personnel to the fire front, reducing transfer times from several hours to just 15 minutes.

In cooperation with Western Australia Police, the Fire King was also placed on standby with specialist equipment and firefighting personnel following a fatal mid-air collision in the Kennedy Range National Park in February 2008.

The trial proved the immense value of this large-capacity, long-range helicopter in both the water bombing and logistical aspects of aerial fire suppression in semi-rural and relatively remote rural locations. With the limited

rotary resources throughout the state, the operating range and capabilities of the Fire King allowed for an improved response to a variety of emergency incidents.

The following table indicates the performance results of the Fire King compared to other aircraft within the FESA fleet.

The future

Following the successful trial, we are seeking ongoing funding to continue using the Fire King as part of our aerial fleet.

	Helicopter Suppression			Air Intel
	4 x Helitacs	Fire King	Total	
Incidents attended	96	46	142	54
Aircraft activations	106	65	171	98
Zone 2 incidents	44	10	54	9
Arrived at Zone 2 incidents	17	10	27	8
Flying time	422.33 hours	131 hours	553.33 hours	174.67 hours
Water delivered	2.75 million litres	2.3 million litres	5.05 millions litres	n/a
Foam applied	4400 litres	6200 litres	10600 litres	n/a
Number of drops	3223	1215	4438	n/a
Availability of aircraft	98%	94.5%	n/a	99%
Properties protected (instances where the fire front was impinging on the property fence line within 150m)				47
Properties saved (instances where the fire front was impinging on the property or house itself)				10
Aerial suppression contributed to the reduction in fire size which has an effect on:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of fauna and flora • reduction of volunteer time spent on the fire ground 				

SERVICE DELIVERY TO REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The National Emergency Management Strategy known as [Keeping Our Mob Safe](#) was launched in the remote Bidyadanga La Grange Community near Broome in July 2007.

An initiative of the Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Council, the strategy assists remote Indigenous communities to develop responses and improved resilience to natural disasters.

We took a lead role in the development of the strategy, hosting focus groups throughout the Kimberley region and meetings in Perth for community members from the Pilbara, Mid West Gascoyne and Goldfields.

This consultation process identified that the level of engagement by remote Indigenous communities in emergency management was very low despite a high level of vulnerability to a broad range of hazards including flood, cyclones, bush fires and transport and industrial accidents.

During 2007-08, we developed a draft State Resource Strategy to improve emergency management capacity and capability in communities.

The development of the draft strategy was based on extensive risk assessment that made recommendations on prevention, mitigation and preparation measures, and identified communities for the establishment of new response capabilities.

The first of these community-based emergency response teams was established in Warakurna and Warburton in April 2008. Equipped with customised trailers, these volunteer response teams will now provide a more effective response to life-threatening vehicle crashes and damaging storms, identified as major risks in the area.

As part of the Kimberley Land Council Ranger Program, we provided fire management planning and bush fire training to two Kimberley Land Council pastoral stations and remote Indigenous communities and bush fire training to four more.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Emergency Services Levy Grant Funding for Volunteers

In 2007-08, \$16.4 million was allocated to local government volunteer bush fire brigades and State Emergency Service units through the [Emergency Services Levy \(ESL\) Grants Scheme](#) for operating costs and capital resources.

Bush Fire Brigades

- \$67 million granted to local governments for bush fire brigades since 2003-04.
- \$3.5 million expenditure on personal protective equipment. Annual expenditure has doubled under the ESL scheme compared to previous local government funding.
- More than 50 percent of the fire fighting fleet (321 of 636 vehicles) has been replaced with new or refurbished tankers in the past five years. This is more than double the fleet replacement rate prior to the ESL.
- Only 15 percent of the fleet remains over age, compared with 32 percent five years ago.
- 50 new bush fire brigade stations have been built or are under construction and a further 31 are being renovated or upgraded.

State Emergency Service

- More than \$13.3 million has been granted to local governments for State Emergency Service units since 2003-04.
- Almost 25 percent of primary equipment (97 of 412 vehicles, trailers and boats) has been replaced in the past five years.
- More than \$2 million has been allocated to the purchase of new and replacement equipment used in search, rescue and community assistance.

More detail on resource improvements resulting from the introduction of the ESL can be found in the [State of the Service](#) report.

Standard Designs Developed for Emergency Services Buildings

We have developed standard facility 'footprints' for emergency services premises. Standardisation reduces both design and construction costs, leading to greater efficiencies in the delivery of capital projects.

A range of options has been developed to accommodate different emergency services requirements and environments such as suburban, rural and industrial.

Facility specification is determined by unit profile and designs are scalable to reflect the number of unit members.

New Alarm Systems for Country Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Stations

Procedures for acknowledgement and response to alarms in regional towns are being aligned with those in metropolitan areas and the existing country communications system is being replaced.

This year, new alarm monitoring systems were installed at approximately 70 percent of stations and remaining installations are planned to be completed by 2009.

The new system allows alarms statewide to be monitored by the FESA Communications Centre and interfaces with local radio communications for improved dispatch notification.

Launch of FESA volunteer extranet

This project was primarily funded by the Australian Government's [National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund](#).

The new volunteer extranet allows instant access for community members, volunteers and staff to a huge library of up-to-date electronic information and resources.

The public can access recruitment information and promotional materials. Current volunteers register for protected access to a wide range of operational and non-operational information and resources. FESA employees can also access the site via the FESA intranet or remotely.

Acceptance and use has been extremely positive. The volunteer extranet website is an ongoing project which is reviewed and updated regularly. Members are encouraged to visit and use it frequently.

Attraction, Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers

In September 2007, a Volunteer Issues forum held at Busselton was attended by volunteer representatives from all Western Australian emergency services. During the forum, attendees considered a range of volunteer-related matters and concerns.

A significant outcome was the recognition that promotional materials and other support tools were needed to address volunteer recruitment issues and that there were varying requirements in different areas of Western Australia.

We successfully sought funding through Emergency Management Australia for a research project to identify volunteer recruitment issues in the different urban, rural and remote areas. Further details are provided in the [Major Initiatives](#) section.

Promotional Materials and Advertising

A wide range of promotional materials and advertisements to assist in attracting and recruiting new emergency services volunteers were produced with support from EMA.

These resources are also used by the Volunteer and Youth Services Branch for volunteer recruitment displays and activities.

Enhancement of Volunteer Rewards and Recognition Program

Several initiatives during 2007-08 have enhanced the comprehensive Volunteer Rewards and Recognition Program:

- Volunteer Marine Rescue Service (VMRS) Long Service Medal.
- State Emergency Service Long Service Medal.
- A range of volunteer Fire and Rescue Service length of service badges.
- Achieved progress towards National Medal status for VMRS members.

Accredited Employer Recognition Program

We have developed a nationally accredited Volunteer Employer Recognition Program to reward supportive employers of emergency services volunteers – including self-employed volunteers – and encourage all employers to support volunteering.

Employers can be nominated by volunteers or other FESA members. There are three levels of recognition: gold, silver and bronze, each depending on the level of employer contribution.

Accredited employers will be able to display their support of volunteers and the community by using the award branding on business and promotional materials.

It is expected supportive employers will raise their community profile and gain further tangible benefits through the program.

Posters, pamphlets and award certificates are in the final design and production stages and a launch of the program will take place in August 2008.

State Emergency Service and USAR Canines

It is recognised around the world that canine teams are an essential element in the efficient and speedy location of victims trapped as a result of building collapse or earthquake. We have been working over the past two years to train a team of dogs that meet nationally and internationally recognised standards.

The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team has adopted the New Zealand standard for USAR Canine Teams. It currently has five dogs in training with the aim of having four qualified dogs in the USAR task force in 2008-09.

A New Zealand dog trainer and assessor were brought to Perth to provide training and assessment of local State Emergency Service dogs, handlers and staff. Two dogs were assessed, one successfully. As a result, Australia has its first canine team integrated into a USAR task force and certified to international standards.

RESEARCH

The guiding principle for our research involvement is to work collaboratively with local government, researchers, the emergency services community and industry to identify emerging trends and knowledge gaps in fire and emergency management. Evidence based thinking is used to support development of innovative solutions that enhance fire and emergency service delivery in Western Australia.

BUSHFIRE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC)

We continued our partnership with the [Bushfire CRC](#) and actively participated in the development of the bid for the next Bushfire CRC. The objective is to broaden planned research into areas with relevance to the broader fire and emergency management functions, with particular emphasis on community based social research, including remote communities.

In conjunction with the Bushfire CRC, we hosted researchers investigating the fitness levels of career and volunteer firefighters. The results will be collated with research from other jurisdictions and released in late 2008.

We support the continuation of the Bushfire CRC and are actively working with other fire and emergency agencies and researchers to develop a proposed

comprehensive research program *Fire Environment and Society* to continue the research to 2017.

CLIMATE CHANGE

FESA is a member of the State Reference Group on Climate Change. This was established to ensure government agencies share information on climate change initiatives and have increased awareness of the range of climate change activities at state and national levels. We also provide Western Australian representation to the disaster management and emergency services section of the Council of Australian Governments National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

We are also assisting in development of a national research bid to access funds from the recently created National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. Our approach is being developed in close liaison with the University of Western Australia and will ensure Western Australia has a high profile in disaster management climate change adaptation research.

WATER RESOURCES

A full time FESA employee will manage water related issues and assist in progressing common water delivery standards, water conservation and

“Collaborative research is used to identify emerging trends and knowledge gaps in fire and emergency management. Evidence-based thinking is used to support development of fire and emergency services in Western Australia”

the potential transfer of ownership of hydrants to the state's water providers as proposed in the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee report, published in October 2006.

A consultative forum has been established with FESA and the three Western Australian state water providers to ensure a common approach to emergency water supply management issues. This expanded water liaison forum has met on four occasions over the past year, resulting in a number of shared understandings on water related measures.

In partnership with water providers, we have commenced an audit of the condition and adequacy of coverage of fire hydrants in areas controlled by local governments.

The audit will provide an indicative assessment of the condition of existing hydrants in local government managed areas and also the adequacy of coverage and will be completed by the end of July 2008.

MAJOR INCIDENT RESPONSE

CYCLONE

Tropical Cyclone Nicholas

On 13 February 2008, a low pressure system off the Pilbara coast was classified as a category one cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Nicholas intensified to category three on 16 February 2008 and began turning towards the coast.

Kimberley and Pilbara FESA staff and SES volunteers prepared local communities. A large team, including Urban Search and Rescue and storm damage teams from Perth and Port Hedland, was assembled in Karratha.

Tropical Cyclone Nicholas passed Exmouth on 19 February 2008 bringing gale force winds. It came within 100 kilometres west of the town, which was on red alert. At that point the cyclone had been downgraded from category three to category two. However, in

Exmouth powerful winds damaged trees, brought down powerlines and disrupted water supplies. The economic impact was significant, with the cost of closure of oil and gas operations and shipping estimated in the tens of millions of dollars.

Skirting erratically around the North West Cape, Tropical Cyclone Nicholas crossed the coast with minimal impact as a category one cyclone near Carnarvon the following day. Torrential rain associated with the cyclone fell in the west Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields and north of the South West Land Division causing localised flooding and power blackouts.

FIRE

Structure Fire

On 13 November 2007, fire caused an estimated \$1 million damage to a two-storey supermarket and adjoining Chinese restaurant in Barrack Street in the Perth central business district. Fire and Rescue Service firefighters protected adjacent premises.

Crews on six pumper appliances and firefighters on the Perth combination ladder platform, an incident control vehicle from Belmont and the Osborne Park specialised equipment tender took two hours to bring the fire under control. Barrack Street remained

closed until noon the following day as remaining hotspots were extinguished and the premises made safe.

Fire investigation officers attributed the fire to juveniles lighting cardboard boxes behind the supermarket.

Ship Fire

The *BBC Islander* was transporting cargo from Singapore to Port Hedland and Dampier. Anchored 15 kilometres from Dampier Wharf, hot steel from oxyacetylene cutting equipment started a fire in one of the ship's cargo holds.

The ship's fire alarm was activated, and the crew attempted to extinguish the fire. With persistent smoke indicating the fire was still smouldering, volunteer firefighters, Dampier Port Authority staff and Australian Maritime Safety Authority surveyors berthed the ship at Dampier Cargo Wharf to assess the damage and extinguish the fire.

The operation took six days to complete and proved very challenging. Additional resources including personnel and fire suppression equipment were sourced from Perth and Adelaide. The incident management team used a mechanical grab to break up cargo and locate the source of the fire, which was suppressed using bulk water application from the oil rig tender Far

Sword, carbon dioxide extinguishers and high-expansion foam.

It was a complex and dangerous incident, which provided the opportunity to gain valuable experience in ship fires. No one was injured; however several volunteers were treated for respiratory infections and one for a rash from the incident. No ongoing medical treatment was required.

Bush Fire

Perth Metropolitan

Parkerville

On 3 January 2008, a tree growing through power lines ignited a grass fire at Parkerville which burnt through more than 300 hectares of bushland.

Fire crews and aerial resources battled through the afternoon and evening to protect 70 threatened homes. As a result of extreme weather conditions, the fire spread rapidly. It destroyed a home at the northern edge of Parkerville and continued through bushland. Two head fires developed and a second home was lost at Stoneville. The head fires burned through semi-rural lots towards Mount Helena, jumping over Stoneville Road.

Firefighters supported by four Helitacs, four fixed-wing water bombers and the Fire King helicopter were able to



contain the blaze after several hours. Blacking out continued over several days and patrols were undertaken for a further four weeks.

Two homes were destroyed and 13 properties damaged.

The multi-agency response included Fire and Rescue Service and Bush Fire Brigade crews from Quinns Rock to Bunbury, the State Emergency Service (SES), Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia Police, Shire of Mundaring, St John Ambulance and Salvation Army.

More than 313,000 litres of water were dropped from the air in support of more than 200 firefighters.

Reviews of the underlying causes of damage and house losses in the bush fires in Parkerville this year and Dwellingup last year is being included as part of a Shire of Mundaring project to improve fire management on private property.



Ballajura

On the same extremely hot afternoon of the Parkerville fire on 3 January 2008, a second major bush fire began on bushland in Lakefarm Retreat, Ballajura. A Malaga Fire and Rescue Service crew was first on the scene and began battling to protect a nearby home. Although this home was destroyed, several other properties were saved, including homes in Cullacabardee and along Gngara Road, the Rick Hamersley Centre, the Telstra Perth International Communications Centre and structures and bushland at Whiteman Park. Evacuations occurred at these locations.

In total, 564 hectares of bushland was burnt. Damage was estimated at \$500,000 and included one home, fences and power poles.

At its peak, 100 Fire and Rescue Service firefighters, volunteers from local government bush fire brigades and the Department of Environment and Conservation fought the blaze. Two Helitacs and four fixed-wing water bombers assisted ground crews through to last light.

The incident was declared safe on the morning of 5 January 2008, with mopping up operations continuing for several days. Recovery assistance was provided by the SES and Western Australia Police, City of Swan Emergency Management Committee, Australian Red Cross and the Department for Child Protection.

Great Southern

Bush fires at Hatter's Hill in the Lake Grace Shire and Splinter's Rock in the Shire of Esperance burnt about 10,000 and 25,000 hectares of unallocated Crown land respectively.

The Hatter's Hill fire was significant in that it severely threatened private farming properties abutting the unallocated Crown land in the Lake King area and took almost four days to contain.

The Splinter's Rock fire, which was largely managed using satellite technology, was significant in terms of its potential to impact upon farm land to the south, mining operations in the area, telecommunications to the eastern seaboard and Salmon Gums to the east. As a result of this fire, the Lake King to Norseman road was closed for an extended period.

The efforts of firefighters and managers on the ground resulted in both fires having minimal impact on private property values.

FESA and local government operational personnel assisted the Department of Environment and Conservation during a large fire in the Fitzgerald River National Park. This was a large multi agency bush fire which burnt approximately 38,000 hectares of the park. Suppression was difficult due to the very rugged and inaccessible terrain. The fire had the potential to

severely impact surrounding farmland in the Shires of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe. Containment of the fire took more than a week and was supported by bush fire brigades from as far away as Denmark and Albany. Good fire management and cooperation by all involved resulted in minimal impact on adjoining farm lands.

Goldfields

The Boorabbin National Park bush fire claimed three lives on 30 December 2007. It is being investigated by the Western Australia Police Arson Squad. A report will be prepared for the Western Australian State Coroner.

This major fire burnt more than 30,000 hectares of bush land near Kalgoorlie over six days from 28 December 2007. The Department of Environment and Conservation was the hazard management agency. Personnel from Kalgoorlie career Fire and Rescue Service and volunteers from Kalgoorlie-Boulder provided assistance as did FESA managers from Northam, Perth, Bunbury and Albany.

South West

Waterloo

On 13 January 2008, a bush fire began on a rail reserve at Waterloo, 15 kilometres north of Bunbury. Driven by a strong south west wind, it threatened five houses, the Austral brickworks and a local service station.

Appliances and crews from the Shires of Dardanup and Harvey, City of Bunbury bush fire brigades, Eaton/Australind volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Bunbury Fire and Rescue Service and Department of Environment and Conservation attended the fire, with support from aerial water bombers.

Although the fire destroyed one machinery shed and closed the South West Highway for several hours, it was brought under control quickly. It was prevented from crossing the highway and threatening more property and the small community of Burekup.

Pinjarra

A suspicious fire began two kilometres west of Pinjarra on the Pinjarra/Mandurah Road on 19 February 2008. A youth turned himself in to Western Australia Police the following day. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Fire crews from the Shires of Murray, Waroona, Serpentine/Jarrahdale, the City of Rockingham and the Department of Environment and Conservation attended, with support from two Helitacs and the Fire King helicopter.

A caravan park and local houses were threatened. The fire destroyed a major power line and damaged many others, causing the closure of three key roads for five hours and making access for

firefighters difficult. Two vintage cars and a mobile home were destroyed, with further damage restricted to a wood yard and surrounding bush.

Augusta-Margaret River

On 22 February 2008, a fire began on private property in Pearce Road Wilderness Estate in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. It rapidly crossed Wallcliffe Road, isolating the coastal town of Prevelly and confining 100 tourists to the town. A further 150 residents were stranded for several hours at Caves Road on the eastern side of the fire. The fire threatened 12 homes, damaged Western Power infrastructure and cut power to some surrounding areas.

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River bush fire brigades, with assistance from the Department of Environment and Conservation and water bombers, were able to control the fire and prevent potential further damage.

This fire highlighted road access issues for a number of South West coastal towns. The relevant authorities are reviewing these issues.

FLOOD

Chapman Valley

On 17 April 2008, around 40 millimetres of rain fell in the Shire of Chapman Valley, damaging 10 kilometres of the Chapman Valley Road. The deluge caused roadside scouring to depths of up to three metres. The Shire of Chapman Valley and Main Roads Western Australia successfully applied for recovery assistance through Western Australian Relief and Recovery Arrangements to repair infrastructure damage, anticipated to total approximately \$508,000.



LAND SEARCH

Goldfields

Three men were reported missing approximately 100 kilometres west of Norseman on the evening of 19 September 2007 after they failed to return from a gold prospecting trip.

An extensive search of the area was undertaken over the next three days. Resources included 33 SES volunteers from Norseman, Kalgoorlie and Esperance, as well as aerial search aircraft and the Australian Search and Rescue (AUSAR) helicopter. Forward looking infrared radar on the AUSAR helicopter was used for night searching. In total, 518 volunteer hours were recorded for this incident.

The missing men were located safe at 11 am by Esperance SES on Friday, 21 September 2007.

Sawyers Valley

Two trail bikers were reported missing in Sawyers Valley on 2 June 2008 after they failed to return to their vehicle.

Metropolitan SES volunteers searched bush land 40-kilometres north-east of Perth during the night and early morning before the men were located unharmed at 9 am on 3 June 2008.

MARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE

Albany

On 21 March 2008, two rock fishermen were swept into the water by a large swell. One managed to swim ashore. The second was thrown a flotation device by onlookers, but they were unable to get him ashore. The Albany Sea Rescue Squad was called and successfully rescued the fisherman who they found drifting out to sea at the point of exhaustion.

The following day a further three fishermen were swept off rocks at almost the same location. Two swam ashore and raised the alarm. Despite a hazardous six hour search off the dangerous coastline in failing light, the volunteers were unable to recover the third person. The Albany squad transported the water police dive team to the area and provided vessels for an ongoing search and recovery effort over the following days. The search recovered the body of the third fisherman.

On 22 April 2008, more than 40 SES volunteers from the Albany and Denmark units spent more than 250 hours assisting Western Australia Police and marine rescue volunteers in the search for a student washed off rocks near the Gap at Albany. The victim's body was recovered approximately one week later.

Mandurah

In April 2008, two divers surfaced off Mandurah to find their boat had drifted off. One diver managed to swim a considerable distance to shore and raise the alarm in the late afternoon. Mandurah and Rockingham Volunteer Marine Rescue Services groups joined a large search in the area. The drifting boat was located by the Western Australia Police helicopter and a revised search plan saw the second diver located later in the evening clinging to a marker at James Service reef off Mandurah. Since this incident, Mandurah Volunteer Marine Rescue Service has equipped its primary rescue vessel with forward-looking infrared radar to assist in searches of this nature.

STORMS

During 2007-08, SES volunteers responded to a total of 256 storm incidents and provided more than 15,600 hours to assist community members in recovering from storms.

Call-outs across Perth and the South West were mostly for storm damage to structures such as trees on roofs, localised flooding and water damage.

Worst affected areas included Rockingham and Waikiki, where a tornado caused considerable property damage, including the destruction of fences, sheds, patios and garages. Rockingham SES was the state's busiest unit during July, spending 2,006 hours

responding to calls for help from the local community.

The onset of winter 2008 has also seen an above average number of incidents requiring metropolitan SES response. Four significant storm incidents in four weeks resulted in more than 640 requests for assistance from the community.

On 9 June 2008, a severe weather front crossed the Perth metropolitan coast bringing heavy rain and strong winds. SES units responded to more than 300 incidents, including 40 to dwellings in Rockingham. There was significant structural damage of the Tranby Hall Aged Care facility which required the evacuation of residents.

Significant storm damage also occurred in the Great Southern region on 15 and 16 June 2008. One house lost its roof and there were numerous fallen trees across roads that required assistance from 20 SES volunteers.

RESCUE

Vertical Rescue

In late 2007, a worker trapped in a small maintenance shaft on a construction site in Perth was rescued by the Perth Fire and Rescue Service. The team set up a vertical rescue system line on the eleventh floor of the building, allowing one team member to abseil down to the man and attach him to the rope system with a rescue sling.

Cliff and Cave Rescue

A fisherman stranded at the base of a tall cliff at West Cliff Point near Manjimup on 17 January 2008 was rescued by SES volunteers and the emergency rescue helicopter RAC Rescue 1.

After the Western Australia Police notified Manjimup SES, a regional vertical response team was activated, comprising SES volunteers from Augusta-Margaret River, Bunbury, Busselton and Manjimup. A Manjimup SES and St John Ambulance volunteer abseiled over the cliff to provide first aid to the stranded man.

The patient was then winched into the helicopter and airlifted to Bunbury Regional Hospital for treatment of rib injuries.



MAJOR EXERCISES

MULTIAGENCY SPECIAL RISKS

Southern Rail Tunnel – Perth

In preparation for the commissioning of the new southern suburbs rail tunnel, an evaluation of the national counter terrorism arrangements was conducted in September 2007. Key stakeholders included:

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- Western Australia Police.
- Public Transport Authority.
- The City of Perth.

The exercise specifically tested safety and evacuation strategies for the twin bored rail tunnels and involved evacuating 158 volunteers from the participating agencies.

To add realism to the exercise 'artificial smoke' was produced. Career Fire and Rescue Service crews from seven stations participated using specialised equipment including breathing apparatus, atmospheric monitoring and thermal imaging cameras.

The exercise also tested the infrastructure installed to improve emergency services' radio communications above and below ground.

The exercise was regarded as a success by all stakeholders. Outcomes were that:

- The radio repeater network, which allowed uninterrupted radio communications for the emergency service crews, operated successfully.
- First-hand experience in tunnel and rail emergencies was provided for career firefighters.
- Operational response protocols were tested and confirmed.
- The Public Transport Authority's role in assisting career crews when dealing with emergencies within tunnels was identified.

Exercise Heli – Bunbury

This exercise, at the Port of Bunbury in late October 2007, was designed to test procedures and provide local personnel with experience of a major or complex regional Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) incident.

The scenario was based on an incident involving a loader and truck, causing chemicals to be spilt and the drivers of both vehicles affected. Firefighters and volunteers from Bunbury practiced their response skills in assessing the situation, rescuing the vehicle occupants and identifying the hazardous materials.

The HAZMAT Emergency Advisory Team (HEAT) provided advice and a field liaison officer and chemist were deployed to Bunbury, where limited chemical detection and identification equipment was available. Chemicals were correctly identified, confirmed by later analysis with Ahura and HAZMAT ID equipment.

FESA's air operations team transported personnel and equipment to the location and provided live aerial images to assist with decision making and incident documentation. The SLIP-EM team also used the exercise to test their information systems. Incident images, mapping and information was relayed to HEAT in Perth, where they were viewed, proposed incident actions were added and they were sent back to the scene.

This successful exercise also provided an opportunity for local emergency services, Western Australia Police, St John Ambulance and the Port of Bunbury to successfully prove liaison and coordination procedures at an unusual and challenging incident.



Chemical Biological Radiological – Fremantle Port

A major exercise involving a chemical biological or radiological hazard was conducted at Fremantle Port in November 2007. This simulated a hostage situation with live casualties. Our operational staff undertook a combat role in support of the Western Australia Police tactical operation team.

Communication Centre Failover

During 2007-08, an exercise was conducted to test the effectiveness of our Communications Centre's backup systems. Several system communication issues were identified that have now been resolved with Telstra and our information and communications team.

EMERGO TRAIN MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISE

A Prospector train carriage donated to FESA provided a unique opportunity to stage an innovative training exercise at our Forrestfield Training Centre to test response to a major Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) incident.

A major state exercise was designed to test Western Australia's capability for incidents similar to the 2007 Victorian Kerang rail disaster which killed 10 people and injured 50, or a more recent bridge collapse incident in the USA.

The exercise was run over 40 hours with crews accommodated in tents in the field and rotating through shifts. It involved local and interstate participants from the Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service, Western Australia Police Forensic Disaster Victim Identification and Bomb Squads, St John Ambulance paramedics, doctors, engineers, surveyors and USAR canines and handlers.

Results

The scenario involved a terrorist improvised explosive device. Participants were exposed to a catastrophic train derailment, bus crash, major pressure vessel fire, structural collapse of a suburban train station and adjoining car park requiring the prioritisation and rescue of trapped and injured people above and below ground.

USAR skills and knowledge were exhaustively tested, particularly in initial disaster assessment and prioritisation and heavy rescue operations involving breaching through concrete.

The future

Many valuable lessons were learned from this exercise. A major post-incident analysis has been conducted and recommendations and lessons from this will assist to further develop Western Australia's capability to respond to incidents such as the exercise simulated. One recommendation supported the construction of a dedicated reconnaissance vehicle for USAR response activities. This vehicle is planned to be delivered in November 2008.



REGIONAL EXERCISES

Kimberley Regional Exercise

Emergency service volunteers, FESA District Managers and an operations training officer participated in a search and rescue exercise over the Foundation Day long weekend, 30 May to 2 June 2008, at the Dampier Downs Pastoral Station on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert.

The objective was to practice and test the group's operational search and navigation skills in a remote location.

The exercise encompassed team building and leadership, forward planning, remote operational mobilisation and sustainability and on and off road driving. It tested and built the team's map reading and global positioning navigation skills as well as those in communications with satellite phones and radios.

Pilbara Bush Fire Exercise

Local governments in the Pilbara region were invited to participate in a regional bush fire desktop exercise on 30 October 2007. Participants were given the option of dialing in via a conference telephone line or attending in person at the Pilbara regional office.

The objective of the exercise was to allow participants to review their understanding and knowledge of existing local, district and state bush fire management arrangements. It also provided an opportunity for local governments to test their own bush fire management arrangements in preparation for the 2007-08 bush fire season.

The exercise realistically simulated an escalating bush fire situation across the Pilbara which tested all aspects of participants' preparedness and response management plans and strategies.

From feedback provided during the exercise debrief, participants believed the exercise, which was typical of how summer fire patterns in the region develop, was highly relevant and worthwhile. It created considerable thought among participants as to how they would fulfil their responsibilities in such an emergency. It also emphasised the importance of coordination and cooperation between all the many groups with vital roles to play.

Shire of Northampton Airport Exercise

An exercise was conducted on 27 October 2007 to test response times and actions for an airplane crash at Kalbarri Airport. The exercise was run in partnership with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. The objective was to provide the local emergency management committee members with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with airport resources and response procedures. Participants included representatives from the Shire of Northampton, Kalbarri Police, volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service volunteers and FESA staff.

Cocos Island - Ferry Disaster Exercise

During the year, marine rescue services volunteers and Australian Federal Police on Cocos Island conducted a multi-agency exercise for a marine transport emergency involving the local inter-island ferry, Biar Persatuan.

The objective was to test the capabilities of all responding agencies in a remote region. A post exercise debrief highlighted some issues, which are being dealt with by the responsible agencies with a further review to be conducted. Recommendations include additional training in the use of breathing apparatus, radios and first aid and the establishment of a training and safety program for the ferry crew.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION

The [Natural Disaster Mitigation Program \(NDMP\)](#) is a national program to identify, assess and provide funding for natural emergency mitigation initiatives and prioritise projects that help the community withstand the effects of natural disasters. FESA administers the program within Western Australia.

The program provided \$2,185,000 for 14 Western Australian projects across the state.

The Australian Government budget of 14 May 2008 announced that the NDMP has been extended for a further year with \$18,600,000 available nationally.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE EMERGENCIES

[Working Together to Manage Emergencies \(WTTME\)](#) is funded by the Australian Government and managed by Emergency Management Australia directly with successful applicants. FESA assist with the initial processing of applications and with the preparation of recommendations to the Australian Government Minister regarding grant allocation. The program has two components: the Local Grants Scheme and the [National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund](#).

All 40 eligible Western Australian Local Grant Scheme applications were approved, with the Australian Government providing total funding of \$1,245,965.

In 2007-08, 25 projects from Western Australia received a total of \$705,072 through the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund.

The 2007-08 financial year was to be the final scheduled round of the Working Together to Manage Emergencies initiative after which a review would be conducted to determine the effectiveness and future of the programs.

The Australian Government has decided to fund the continuation of the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund component of WTTME. However, it did not consider the future of the Local Grant Scheme at the same time and as a result, funding to the Scheme has ceased.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (WANDRRA)

We manage the [Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements](#) (WANDRRA), which provide financial assistance to

communities whose social, financial and economic wellbeing has been significantly affected by a natural disaster.

During 2007-08, two events were proclaimed eligible natural disasters under the WANDRRA provisions:

- Boorabbin National Park Bushfire – December 2007 – January 2008.
- Chapman Valley Flood – April 2008.

Details of WANDRRA expenditure is provided in the [Financial Disclosures](#) section of this report.

We are working with key stakeholders to enhance the WANDRRA through the implementation of:

- Recommendations of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's 2007 report [Inquiry into Western Australia's Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements](#).
- The Australian Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination 2007.

Key matters covered by the above include:

- The establishment of a more equitable means of calculating the local government contribution to road and infrastructure restoration costs.
- The provision of relief for the cost of materials expended in the repair of boundary fences, where those fences abut a major road.

The 2007 determination includes provision for the establishment of *Community Recovery Packages* with the approval of the Prime Minister. These packages are designed to support a holistic approach to the recovery of regions, communities or sectors severely affected by a natural disaster. Subject to specific conditions, the packages may comprise one or more of the following:

- A community recovery fund.
- Recovery grants to small businesses.
- Recovery grants for primary producers.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In line with our commitment to develop quality people, we have continued to progress the recommendations of the *FESA Corporate Training and Development Strategy 2005-08* with ongoing reviews as required.

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cultivating Leadership Program

Following a successful trial in 2006-07, we have implemented our new *Cultivating Organisational Leadership* program. The purpose of the program is to build internal capacity to fill leadership roles and key positions within the organisation. This program is integrated with other organisational development processes and strategies and includes a succession planning pool model.

Currently, two groups are completing the program. Group 1 has nine participants and is due to complete the program in November 2008. Group 2 commenced in December 2007 and its 11 participants are scheduled to complete the program in May 2009.

Based upon both formal evaluation processes and informal feedback, there have been strong indications that all participants have gained valuable benefits from the program.

Management Development Program

The pilot group for the FESA Frontline Management Development Program graduated in July 2007 with nine out of the enrolled 12 successfully completing all requirements. Successful completion of the course results in a Diploma of Business (Frontline Management). Feedback indicated that the course was highly valued by participants.

Key Organisational Skills Training

During 2007-08, 74 staff attended key organisational skills programs.

In addition to this external training, a number of in-house courses addressed priority needs and 42 staff attended training programs involving staff selection panel, job application skills and job interview skills.

Study Assistance

External study assistance, EMA and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council courses have enabled many FESA staff to achieve post-graduate qualifications.

In January 2008, 15 applications were received and approved. For the first time, further applications were called for studies to commence in the second semester of 2008.

MAJOR INCIDENT TRAINING

Logistics management and incident planning courses continue to ensure consistency with our diverse incident management roles and responsibilities.

Logistics management training is provided to all newly appointed incident managers. Incident management training for major emergency teams was conducted in October 2007, with each team undertaking two simulations over two days, a rail HAZMAT and a major bush fire scenario. Participants from other emergency services organisations were invited to join the courses where appropriate to promote interoperability and cooperation across jurisdictions.

In February 2008, incident managers from the Northern Territory Fire Service received incident management training with FESA's virtual incident simulator. A week of training culminated in a full day strategic scenario involving all participants in an incident management team. The training was well received by all participants and we have been requested to deliver computer-simulated incident management training again in 2009.

A tunnel scenario was completed during 2007-08 to address training and exercise requirements for large scale and significant incidents. The scenario was a joint development between FESA, the Country Fire Authority of

Victoria and Vector Command Limited. In April 2008, training in the operation and facilitation of the scenario was delivered to all the Australasian fire agencies that are using the virtual simulation system.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAINING

We conducted a structural fire investigation training course for fire investigators which included personnel from police or fire agencies from most other states. Courses such as these facilitate the interchange of information and knowledge of fire investigation practices across jurisdictions and provide greater exposure for local fire investigators to initiatives and trends in other areas of Australia.

A fire investigation refresher training course was conducted for regional-based bush and structural fire investigators to facilitate competency maintenance and professional development.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer Firefighter Training

Continued development of the *Volunteer Firefighter Training Program* saw several new training resource kits developed the year.

The production and distribution of the course information booklet was a significant initiative as it covers all aspects of training including

course nominations, prerequisites, certification, optional pathways to national competencies, course purpose, content and duration. The booklet is updated regularly and is available to all regions and volunteers in both hard copy and electronically on the new volunteer extranet.

The establishment of the Volunteer Firefighter Training Advisory Group, which consists of representatives from both volunteer fire associations, will ensure that key strategic training issues for volunteer firefighters are adequately addressed.

The Volunteer Firefighter Training Program is a new program that will replace the volunteer Fire and Rescue Service curriculum and Bush Fire Service core training program. We are currently in a transition phase and this is reflected in the numbers achieving competence or qualification in the various programs.

Volunteer Firefighter Training			
Training Activity	Numbers achieving competence or qualification		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
FESA Fire and Rescue Service Volunteer Training and Education Curriculum	954	244	192
FESA Bush Fire Service Core Training Program	1,684	914	288
Volunteer Firefighter Training Program	157	1,297	2,691
Total	2,795	2,455	3,171

Volunteer State Emergency Service Training

Work continued during the year on the review of current training resources for driving, road crash rescue, injury management and generic leadership. Additional training resource kits have been developed, refined and fully implemented.

Cadets and Juniors

Youth development training opportunities offered during 2007-08, included:

- Instructor networking sessions and instructor development courses.
- Basic Urban Search and Rescue skills courses.
- Leadership and instructional skills courses.
- State camp.
- *Leeuwin* ocean adventure voyage.
- *Leeuwin* sail for instructors.
- Burma Thai railway tour.

FESA State Emergency Service – National Competency-Based Training				
Training Activity	Numbers achieving competence or qualification			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Level 1 – Specialist Skills	808	648	1,263	807
Level 3 – Trainer/Assessor of Specialist Skills	70	72	260	100
Certificate II in Public Safety (SES Operations)	17	23	29	10
Certificate II in Public Safety (SES Rescue)	26	31	31	14
Certificate III in Public Safety (SES Rescue)	0	0	2	1
Total	921	774	1,585	932

FESA State Emergency Service – FESA Training System				
Training Activity	Numbers achieving competence or qualification			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Level 1 – Specialist Skills	396	310	487	402
Level 2 – Team Leader of Specialist Skills	17	24	30	6
Level 3 – Instructors of Specialist Skills	18	22	25	11
Total	431	356	542	419

In addition, the Volunteer and Youth Services Branch coordinates an annual grant scheme in support of volunteer brigades, groups and units operating a junior or cadet program. In 2007-08, \$21,140 was approved under this scheme.

Juniors and cadets continued their active involvement in community service projects, including the state USAR rescue exercise and Order of Australia youth reception.

COMMERCIAL TRAINING UNIT

A key component of community-centred emergency management is to increase the community's preparedness to respond effectively to workplace emergencies. In 2007-08, the FESA Commercial Training Unit delivered courses to health care, manufacturing and mining organisations across the State. The following table shows our commercial training activities over the past three years.

Over the past year, the unit produced 27 written evacuation procedures for Western Australian organisations. To reinforce this essential aspect of workplace safety, we conducted

350 workplace evacuation drills and extinguisher demonstrations for 7,398 employees.

INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIPS

We offer specific traineeships for young Indigenous people. Two recent Indigenous trainees were successfully placed in permanent positions at FESA. One was appointed as a personnel and payroll officer in September 2007 and another as a workers' compensation officer in May 2008. A third undertook a Certificate II Business Administration traineeship at the Forrestfield Training Centre.

The Indigenous trainee program will continue in 2008-09.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

In 2008-09, we delivered emergency management training to 19 local governments including, for the first time, the Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island. Training was delivered through the [All Western Australian Reducing Emergencies](#) (AWARE) program and EMA extension courses.

Topics covered through AWARE include Introduction to Recovery Management, Introduction to Emergency Risk Management and Safer Country - Indigenous Emergency Risk Management. Extension courses covered Coordination Centre Management, Context of Recovery Management, Business Continuity and Exercise Management.

TRAINING COMPLIANCE

Following the introduction of the revised Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) in July 2007, the *Training Procedures Manual* has been reviewed to ensure that it reflects the new standards as outlined in the AQTF 2007.

The Training and Compliance Section is undertaking the implementation of the TRAIN 2 database, a major project with significant implications for FESA's Registered Training Organisation status. Work is underway to ensure the integrity of the current TRAIN data prior to the transition to the new version.

Commercial Training			
Training Activity	Numbers achieving competence or qualification		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Fire Warden & Chief Fire Warden Participants	43 Courses 456 Participants	62 Courses 496 Participants	54 Courses 433 Participants
Extinguisher Courses	84 Courses 1,048 Participants	116 Courses 1,160 Participants	126 Courses 1,119 Participants
Emergency Operations Training	237 Courses 1,944 Participants	321 Demos 5,778 Participants	303 Demos 6,449 Participants
Written Evacuation Procedures	30	36	27
Extinguisher Demonstrations	384 Demos 7,133 Participants	321 Demos 5,778 Participants	303 Demos 6,449 Participants
Evacuation Drills	77 Drills 879 Participants	92 Drills 1,012 Participants	47 Drills 949 Participants
Fire Safety Talk	14	5	1

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REVIEWS

- The recommendations of two Community Development Justice Standing Committee Reviews: the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) and the Review into Fire and Emergency Services Legislation will have significant impacts on the operations of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS

- An increase in awareness of climate change theories will put greater demands on planning services for future scenarios and response.
- Significant population growth and changing demographic patterns continue to increase demand for services across the state.
- Outcomes of significant national reviews and inquiries are influencing the need to develop more comprehensive and contemporary legislation.
- The ongoing development of national standards and reporting frameworks for emergency management will impact on the priority to improve data collection and reporting systems.
- Visible achievements since the introduction of the Emergency Services Levy have increased stakeholder demand and expectations of timeliness in the provision of capital infrastructure.
- Increasing technological awareness within the community and growing demands for on-line access to information systems continue to impact our priorities for improved information management systems.
- Decreasing support for existing analogue communication systems will heighten the priority to develop digital communication systems that take advantage of new networking technologies.
- The effect of an ageing population, particularly an increasing average age of operational volunteers, is a significant issue. Strategies for developing youth and junior and cadet pathways in volunteer services and retention strategies for current volunteers are being pursued.

CHANGES IN WRITTEN LAW

Emergency Management Amendment Regulations 2008

On 18 March 2008, the Emergency Management Amendment Regulations 2008 appointed the State Health Coordinator as the hazard management agency responsible for the preparedness and response aspects of emergency management for the hazard of human epidemic.

Emergency Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2008

On 29 April 2008, the Emergency Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2008 appointed the Agriculture Director General as the hazard management agency responsible for the preparedness and response aspects of emergency management for the hazards of:

- an animal or plant pest.
- an animal or plant disease.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment (Smoke Alarms) Bill 2007

Legislation requiring the mandatory fitting of mains powered smoke alarms in existing residential buildings was enacted in December 2007. Amendment Regulations to amend the Building Regulations 1989 are now being progressed by the Department of Housing and Works in close consultation with FESA. It is expected these Regulations will be passed in early 2009.

Criminal Law and Evidence Amendment Act 2008

In March 2008, the *Criminal Law and Evidence Amendment Act 2008* amended the Criminal Code to increase the maximum penalty for serious assaults on public officers. This legislation applies to FESA career Fire and Rescue personnel, members of VES units, SES units or VMRS groups (within the meaning given to those terms by the *Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998*) as well as members or officers of private fire brigades or volunteer fire brigades (within the meaning given to those terms by the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*).

Stage one of *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* outlines our intended actions for the next five-year period. During 2008-09 our priority will be to commence the major building blocks that will lay the foundation for success in future years. As outlined in our strategy, we will focus on improving outcomes in four key areas – for staff and volunteers, the community, the development of services and delivery of services.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 - PREVENTION SERVICES

FUTURES MONITORING

The development of monitoring systems will ensure that the *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* strategy remains current and we are flexible enough to meet changing demands in our operating environment. Ongoing monitoring will also ensure that informed and proactive strategy development is an entrenched methodology across the organisation.

The clear articulation of strategic direction through our strategic management framework - including annual plans, individual performance agreements and regular feedback through quarterly reporting tools - will assist us in aligning FESA to outcomes that support the achievement of government goals.

The *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future* strategy document is underpinned by specific plans for the management and development of service delivery, people, assets and technology. These plans will assist us to manage increased demand for services through the development of future strategies to address a changing operating environment.

Horizon scanning will ensure impacts of changing demographics, climate change and key research findings are considered in the ongoing development of our services and service delivery models.

Training in the use of horizon scanning systems will promote an organisation-wide long term planning approach that will assist us to anticipate and respond to the changing needs of the community and environment in a timely and effective manner.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Local flood risk plans will be developed based on inundation mapping of the Swan and Canning Rivers.

We will continue working with Kimberley community, Indigenous and pastoral landholders by providing support for pastoral fire management planning, bush fire training and the reduction of strategic hazards through an extended aerial controlled burning program. We will continue our joint Arson Reduction Program with Western Australia Police and work to reduce inappropriate fire lighting in the region.

The State Tsunami Emergency Management Plan will be presented in late 2008. Local risk plans are now being developed in the Mid West, South West and Metropolitan regions. Research is being undertaken to identify the vulnerability of remote Indigenous communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara, including Dampier Peninsula, Bindi Bindi via Onslow and Bidjiganga via Broome.

A tsunami simulation demonstration tank will form part of the water hazard exhibits at the Fire and Emergency Services Education and Heritage Centre which will be opened during 2008-09.

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

During 2008-09, we will upgrade key operational databases, including our TRAIN database and the Organisational Improvement Database. We will also improve their functionality for capturing and reporting data against our key organisational information.

The implementation of a data warehouse and online reporting facility and the installation of mobile data terminals in appliances will improve operational response data quality and completeness.

The review of our online services is also intended to significantly improve community access to our prevention and emergency service information and support materials.

IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY WELFARE SYSTEMS FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

In 2008-09, we will develop and deliver training for occupational safety and health representatives and managers in accident investigation, workplace inspections, injury management and return to work processes.

We will also develop and deliver a welfare training program for managers. There will be a focus on mental health first aid, including implementation of a management system and support structure for peer supporter training and ongoing development.

Further initiatives to improve health and fitness include reviewing the standard of equipment and fitness development programs in gymnasiums, the establishment of a standardised FESA health screening program and the development of fitness testing standards for firefighters.

The FESA injury prevention program will be progressed to include manual handling and safe practice in gymnasiums and physical training.

STRATEGIES FOR ATTRACTION, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF VOLUNTEERS

The ultimate aim of the volunteer recruitment research project is to increase volunteer member numbers, especially in areas with urgent needs and where recruitment has been difficult. The research will be used to develop a best-practice model for targeted volunteer recruitment within Western Australia. Although specific to Western Australia, it is likely that the project will produce nationally significant outcomes.

The project will complement existing volunteer recruitment initiatives and should increase community awareness, interest and participation. By targeting identified areas of need and increasing the number of active volunteers, FESA will improve emergency services to the community of Western Australia.

IMPROVED COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Initiatives are currently underway to review a range of emergency and awareness programs and community safety education programs.

Recommendations of the reviews of the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness (JAFFA), [Bush Fire Ready Action Groups \(BRAG\)](#), and [All Western Australians Reducing Emergencies \(AWARE\)](#) programs will be progressed in 2008-09, as will any recommendations flowing from the national review of community education, awareness and engagement programs for natural disasters.

IMPROVED ARSON INVESTIGATION, REPORTING AND TARGETED REDUCTION

Statistics indicate that around 40 percent of bush fires are suspicious and 10 percent are deliberately lit.

We are committed to reducing deliberately lit fires, and collaborate closely with other fire services, government departments, the insurance industry and Western Australia Police to assist in the detection and apprehension of arsonists.

The multi-agency Arson Information Network and the Insurance Council of Australia's Arson Reward Scheme have resulted in improved intelligence on suspected arson and a significant number of arrests.

We will continue providing advice to business and property owners on discouraging arson and preventing arson damage and promoting the SCHOOL Watch community based school arson, theft and vandalism reduction program. Officers also work with the community, implementing targeted arson reduction programs in areas where data indicates an increasing trend in arson.

We have developed draft guidelines for volunteer screening and are now working with the Western Australian Local Government Association to encourage the acceptance and introduction of screening across the state.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 - EMERGENCY SERVICES

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAJOR REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

Fire and Emergency Services Legislation

Assessment and implementation of a number of the 88 recommendations of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee Inquiry into Emergency Services Legislation will be ongoing through 2008-09.

Our focus this year will be to ensure that FESA's legislated roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and regulations are supported by clear policies and procedures.

Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

During 2007, the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee reviewed the then Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements and made 14 recommendations regarding potential enhancements. We will continue to work with key stakeholders to implement the recommendations supported by government, and to ensure that support to disaster affected communities is improved.

Karijini Recommendations

A coronial inquiry into the Karijini incident resulted in 65 recommendations, the majority of which have been addressed.

We commissioned an independent review of training, internal procedures and equipment in response to five outstanding recommendations on the development of a common set of standards and equipment for all services undertaking vertical rescue.

Two recommendations related to the development of an emergency management plan for the Karijini National Park and evacuation of park visitors have been referred to Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly Department of Conservation and Land Management) for action.

By the end of 2008, all recommendations from the original inquiry will be implemented.

Tropical Cyclone George

We conducted a major incident review for Tropical Cyclone George. The report made 23 recommendations to improve service delivery and incorporate lessons learned from this incident into operational protocols where appropriate.

Implementation has begun and is due to be completed by December 2008.

INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES

Significant population growth and changing demographic patterns will continue to affect demand for services across the state. In 2008-09, we will develop a workforce planning model to support a sustainable workforce.

We will continue to build internal resilience through the continuation of professional development initiatives such as the *Cultivating Leadership Program* and support of continuous education through study assistance.

During 2008-09, the service delivery model for country regions will be reviewed. Allocation of Emergency Services Levy grant funding will continue to be based on risk assessment and changing community needs will be considered for long term planning.

Targeted volunteer recruitment and retention strategies as well as the development of youth and cadet and junior pathways will support the sustainability of the volunteer workforce.

An additional 44 full time firefighter positions have been approved for 2008-09 to address increased demand for services resulting from state growth and to provide appropriate relief staffing.

Our ability to deliver capital infrastructure projects is also being affected by rapid growth and increased pressures in the manufacturing and construction industries. Quarterly monitoring through the Infrastructure Planning Committee will assist in managing pressures and ensuring that stakeholders are kept fully informed of any potential issues as they arise.

ENHANCED OPERATIONAL RESOURCING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

In 2008-09, \$17.25 million has been allocated for grants to local government to support volunteer Bush Fire Service brigades and State Emergency Service units throughout Western Australia.

A number of capital projects will be progressed in 2008-09, including:

- Completion of the Perth career Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) station.
- Construction of a new career FRS station in Ellenbrook.
- Construction of new volunteer FRS stations in Albany and Carnarvon.
- Development of new collocated volunteer facilities in Kununurra, Esperance and Derby.
- Continuation of substantial vehicle and equipment replacement programs.

The State Government has also committed \$1 million in 2008-09 to increase the number of community fire managers in Western Australia.

There are already managers in Cockburn, Wanneroo, Swan, Mundaring, Denmark, Geraldton/Greenough, Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River and a part-time manager in Nannup.

The seven new positions will be located in strategic high-risk local government areas in the Great Southern, outer Metropolitan, South West and Mid West Gascoyne regions.

Community fire managers are jointly funded by state and local government and play a critical role in helping local governments ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of their volunteer emergency services.

The state's capability to identify unknown chemicals in the event of an incident has been enhanced with the implementation of a rapid chemical liquid and solid field analysis unit, the HAZMAT ID, which can identify 20,000 chemicals on site. A further detection unit with chemical vapour analysis and identification will be fully operational by September 2008.

Special risks capability will also be enhanced through extended aerial operations support and a focus on improved capability to respond to ship fires.

IMPROVED INTERAGENCY INTEROPERABILITY AND COMMUNICATION

The following initiatives ongoing in 2008-09 will contribute significantly to the achievement of this objective.

Emergency Connect WA

This project will provide funding for the development of a radio over internet protocol network for Western Australia. This network will allow the integration of different radio frequencies and channels, such as Very High Frequency (VHF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF), so emergency services staff using discrete radio communications systems can communicate freely. The Emergency Connect WA project will also provide funding for fixed and mobile satellite communications in regional areas to improve the efficiency and redundancy of emergency communications.

Western Australian Emergency Radio Network

Continued implementation of Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) equipment during 2008-09 focuses on the Great Southern region extending into the South West region. Additionally, further pilot projects will be conducted in outer metropolitan areas, so that planning for the implementation in the broader metropolitan area can proceed.

Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch and Communications

The project to enhance the Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch and Communication system (ES-CADCOM), will continue during 2008-09. The next phase of the project will further improve the delivery, coordination, efficiency and management of Western Australian emergency services and give the FESA Communications Centre additional functionality through:

- Version 2 of FESA-CAD incorporating capability based turnout (emergency response).
- An integrated voice management system incorporating digital based station direct line communications.
- Upgraded mobile data terminal infrastructure and improved functionality.

State Alert

We have been working in partnership with the Western Australia Police in developing a system with the capability of delivering a 'mass message'. The State Alert program has been tested. We are now working with other states and territories and the Commonwealth to gain access to the Integrated Public Number Database which is controlled by the Australian Communications Media Authority.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2008 and the financial position as at 30 June 2008.

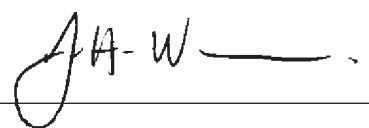
At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



F Fortuna

A /Chief Finance Officer


4 September 2008



J Harrison-Ward

Member of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008



A Skinner

Chairman of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	5	106,658	101,956
Supplies and services	6	50,535	45,585
Depreciation and amortisation expense	7	9,528	8,779
Finance costs	8	2,262	1,998
Accommodation expenses	9	6,144	6,076
Grants and subsidies	10	41,251	53,416
Capital user charge	11	-	2,228
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	12	1	-
Other expenses	13	1,996	2,179
Total Cost of Services		218,375	222,217
INCOME			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	14	165,265	150,009
Commonwealth grants and contributions	15	5,950	4,639
Interest revenue	16	4,469	4,343
Other revenue	17	8,266	9,572
Total Revenue		183,950	168,563
Gains			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	12	113	116
Total Gains		113	116
Total income other than income from State Government		184,063	168,679
NET COST OF SERVICES		34,312	53,538
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation	18	46,631	59,277
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer		-	419
Resources received free of charge		1,597	2,745
Total income from State Government		48,228	62,441
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		13,916	8,903

See also note 43 'Schedule of income and expense by service'
The Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	19	59,595	71,316
Inventories	20	8,687	6,274
Receivables	21	9,605	7,757
Amounts receivable for services	22	-	1,261
Total current assets		77,887	86,608
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	23	229,317	178,636
Intangible assets	24	202	144
Amounts receivable for services	22	2,355	-
Other financial assets	25	500	500
Total non-current assets		232,374	179,280
TOTAL ASSETS		310,261	265,888
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	27	9,381	15,351
Borrowings	28	33,174	12,550
Provisions	29	10,775	10,428
Total current liabilities		53,330	38,329
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	28	5,207	20,315
Provisions	29	7,624	7,051
Total non-current liabilities		12,831	27,366
TOTAL LIABILITIES		66,161	65,695
NET ASSETS		244,100	200,193
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	30	59,319	58,363
Reserves		77,154	48,119
Accumulated surplus		107,627	93,711
TOTAL EQUITY		244,100	200,193

The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
Balance of equity at start of period		200,193	157,932
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	30		
Balance at start of period		58,363	58,113
Capital contribution		1,210	250
Other contributions by owners		490	-
Distributions to owners		(744)	-
Balance at end of period		59,319	58,363
RESERVES	30		
Asset revaluation reserve			
Balance at start of period		48,119	15,011
Gains from asset revaluation		29,035	33,108
Balance at end of period		77,154	48,119
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	30		
Balance at start of period		93,711	84,808
Surplus for the period		13,916	8,903
Balance at end of period		107,627	93,711
Balance of equity at end of period		244,100	200,193
Total income and expense for the period ^(a)		42,951	42,011

(a) The aggregate net amount attributable to each category of equity is: surplus of \$13,916,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$29,035,000 (2007: surplus \$8,903,000 plus gains from asset revaluation of \$33,108,000).

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		42,887	56,036
Capital contributions		1,210	250
Holding account drawdowns		2,650	3,655
Net cash provided by State Government		46,747	59,941
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(105,702)	(93,917)
Supplies and services		(58,085)	(44,692)
Finance costs		(1,653)	(1,571)
Accommodation		(6,144)	(6,076)
Grants and subsidies		(41,251)	(53,416)
Capital user charge		-	(2,228)
GST payments on purchases		(9,987)	(8,478)
Other payments		(1,996)	(1,875)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		164,082	147,057
Commonwealth grants and contributions		5,462	4,639
Interest received		4,236	3,967
GST receipts on sales		1,272	866
GST receipts from taxation authority		8,715	7,612
Other receipts		8,266	9,572
Net cash used in operating activities	31	(32,785)	(38,540)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		116	206
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(31,315)	(20,406)
Net cash used in investing activities		(31,199)	(20,200)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		7,619	-
Repayment of borrowings		(2,103)	(2,050)
Net cash used in financing activities		5,516	(2,050)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(11,721)	(849)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		71,316	72,165
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	19	59,595	71,316

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

1 Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

General

The Authority's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the Authority has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised Standards and Interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

Early adoption of standards

The Authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Authority for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2008.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act and the Treasurer's instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land and buildings which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

(c) Reporting entity

The reporting entity comprises the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.

(d) Contributed equity

UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 955 'Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Rendering of services

Revenue is recognised on delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Emergency services levy

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) funds Western Australia's fire and emergency services. The majority of the ESL is raised and collected by the Local Government on behalf of FESA by including it on council rates notices. The ESL is calculated on the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of most urban properties, with a fixed rate charge per property in rural and remote areas. The Authority also raises assessment notices for ESL directly to the State Government (General Sector), State Government instrumentalities (corporations) and Local Governments for properties owned by these groups separately.

The Authority recognises revenue upon receipt of an Emergency Services Levy Assessment Profile Return Form which all local governments complete at the start of each financial year (within 14 days of rates issue). Local Governments either remit ESL to FESA on a monthly basis as they collect it, or they can enter into an Option B Agreement authorised by the Minister and pay the ESL they assess to FESA in one or four instalments.

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the delivery of services to the client when the significant risks and rewards of ownership control transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at nominal value in the period in which the Authority gains control of the appropriated funds. The Authority gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Authority's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance. (See note 18 'Income from State Government').

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the balance sheet date, the nature of, and amounts pertaining to, those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the notes.

Gains

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs for qualifying assets are capitalised net of any investment income earned on the unexpended portion of the borrowings. Other borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation / Expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment costing over \$1,000 are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$1,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Initial recognition and measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Subsequent measurement

After recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings and the cost model for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation on buildings and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions. Where market-based evidence is not available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, ie. the depreciated replacement cost. When buildings are revalued, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Independent valuations of land and buildings are provided annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the balance sheet date.

The most significant assumptions in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated useful life. Professional judgement by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

Depreciation

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Land and artwork is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Building	20 - 40 years
Vehicles	2 - 20 years
Plant and equipment	5 - 10 years

Works of art controlled by the Authority are classified as property, plant and equipment, which are anticipated to have very long and indefinite useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period and so no depreciation has been recognised.

(h) Intangible assets

Capitalisation / Expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing over \$1,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$1,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful lives. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement.

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life) on the straight-line basis using rates which are reviewed annually. All intangible assets controlled by the Authority have a finite useful life and zero residual value, except for trademarks. The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Licences	up to 10 years
Software ^(a)	3 to 5 years
Web site costs	3 to 5 years

(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(h) Intangible assets (continued)

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$1,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Web site costs

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$1,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

(i) Impairment of assets

Property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As the Authority is a not for profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at each balance sheet date irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value

have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

(j) Leases

The Authority holds operating leases for buildings, office equipment, aerial equipment and motor vehicles. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased items and services. See also note 6 'Supplies and services' and note 32 'Commitments'.

(k) Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate, at fair value. See also note 18 'Income from State Government'.

(l) Financial instruments

In addition to cash, the Authority has two categories of financial instrument:

- Loans and receivables; and
- Non- trading financial liabilities.

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services
- Other financial assets

Financial Liabilities

- Payables
- WATC borrowings

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material. See also note 36 'Financial Instruments'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents includes assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(n) Accrued salaries

Accrued salaries (see note 27 'Payables') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a week of the financial year end. The Authority considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

(o) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See also note 2 (l) 'Financial Instruments' and note 21 'Receivables'.

(p) Amounts receivable for services (Holding account)

The Authority receives appropriation funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement.

See also note 18 'Income from State Government' and note 22 'Amounts receivable for services'.

(q) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned by the method most appropriate to each particular class of inventory, with the majority being valued using the average cost method.

Inventories not held for resale are valued at cost unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value. See also note 20 'Inventories'.

(r) Other financial assets

The Authority has investments classified as held-to-maturity.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at each balance sheet date. Investments not at fair value are initially recognised at cost being the fair value of consideration given, including directly attributable transaction costs.

Investments are classified as held-to-maturity when management has a positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. The current investment is held with the ANZ Investment bank with a maturity date of 20 June 2013. The investment has 100% principal protection at maturity. FESA can request early redemption of the investment.

The Authority assesses at each balance date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset is impaired. See also note 25 'Other financial assets'.

(s) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See also note 2 (l) 'Financial instruments' and note 27 'Payables'.

(t) Borrowings

All loans payable are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the net proceeds received. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. See also note 2(l) 'Financial instruments' and note 28 'Borrowings'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(u) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See also note 29 'Provisions'.

(i) Provisions - Employee benefits

Annual leave and long service leave

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the balance sheet date is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the balance sheet date on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Purchased Leave

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional four weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave.

Superannuation

Contributions are made to the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Board (FESSB) and to the Government Employees Superannuation Board to provide benefits for employees and their dependants on retirement, disability or death.

The liability for superannuation charges under the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Act 1985 is extinguished by weekly payments of employer contributions to the FESSB.

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers the following superannuation schemes.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members.

The Authority has no liabilities under the Pension or the GSS Schemes. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS Scheme transfer benefits due to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS Scheme obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Authority to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS Scheme is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS Scheme obligations.

(ii) Provisions - Other

Employment on-costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Authority's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'. See also note 13 'Other expenses' and note 29 'Provisions'.

(v) Superannuation expense

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the Income Statement:

(a) Defined benefit plans - Change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(v) Superannuation expense (continued)

(b) Defined contribution plans - Employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS) the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS) and the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund.

Defined benefit plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the movements (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS Scheme transfer benefits are recognised as expenses directly in the Income Statement. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer, a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under Income from State Government in the Income Statement. See note 18 'Income from State Government'.

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided in the current year.

Defined contribution plans - in order to reflect the Authority's true cost of services, the Authority is funded for the equivalent of employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme (excluding transfer benefits). These contributions were paid to the GESB during the year and placed in a trust account administered by the GESB on behalf of the Treasurer. The GESB subsequently paid these employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the Consolidated Account.

The GSS Scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, apart from the transfer benefit, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

The Authority also makes employer contributions to the FESSB during the year. The Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund is a defined benefit scheme for the purpose of employees. However, it is considered a defined contribution plan for agency purposes as contributions made by the agency to FESSB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability and any risks associated with the fund.

(w) Comparative figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

3 Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key estimates and assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- Discount rates used in estimating provisions;
- Estimating useful life and residual values of key assets;
- Long service leave – retention rates and discount rates; and
- Estimating depreciated replacement cost.

4 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The Authority has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007 that impacted on the Authority:

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'). This Standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments and while there is no financial impact, the changes have resulted in increased disclosures, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Authority's exposure to risks, including enhanced disclosure regarding components of the Authority's financial position and performance, and changes to the way of presenting certain items in the notes to the financial statements.

Voluntary changes in Accounting Policy

Treasurer's Instruction 1101 sets out the effective dates for agencies to change the asset capitalisation threshold to \$5,000. This represents a voluntary change in accounting policy for the purposes of applying AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors'.

The asset capitalisation threshold will be set at \$5,000 for asset recognition under AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment' and AASB 138 'Intangible Assets' effective 1 July 2008. The proforma Income Statement and Balance Sheet shows the information that would have been disclosed had the accounting policy always been applied.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

4 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates (continued) Voluntary changes in Accounting Policy (continued)

Proforma

Income Statement

Total Cost of Services

Total Income other than income from State Government

NET COST OF SERVICES

Total Income from State Government

SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD

2008 \$000 (Restated)	2007 \$000 (Restated)
219,061	222,942
184,063	168,679
34,998	54,263
48,228	62,441
13,230	8,178

Proforma

Balance Sheet

Total current assets

Total non-current assets

TOTAL ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Non-current liabilities

TOTAL LIABILITIES

NET ASSETS

TOTAL EQUITY

2008 \$000 (Restated)	2007 \$000 (Restated)
77,887	86,608
227,443	175,036
305,330	261,644
53,330	38,329
12,831	27,366
66,161	65,695
239,169	195,949
239,169	195,949

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

4 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates (continued)

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Authority has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued and which may impact the Authority but are not yet effective. Where applicable, the Authority plans to apply these Standards and Interpretations from their application date:

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from nonowner changes in equity. The Authority does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied.	1 January 2009
Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' and 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31: AASB 1004 'Contributions' (December 2007).	
AASB 1004 'Contributions' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 1050 'Administered Items' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137] (December 2007).	1 July 2008
Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities (revised) (December 2007).	1 July 2008
The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and existing topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. AASB 1050, AASB 1051 and AASB 1052 only apply to government departments. The other Standards and Interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance (for example, Australian Guidance to AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment' in relation to heritage and cultural assets has been introduced), otherwise, there will be no financial impact.	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

4 Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates (continued)

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative (continued)

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 123 'Borrowing Costs' (June 2007). This Standard has been revised to mandate the capitalisation of all borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets. The Authority already capitalises borrowing costs directly attributable to buildings under construction, therefore, this will be no impact on the financial statements when the Standard is first applied.	1 January 2009
AASB 1049 'Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting'	1 July 2008
AASB 2007-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraphs 1 to 8	1 January 2008
AASB 2007-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-6 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 & AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 and 12]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-8 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101'	1 January 2009
Interpretation 4 'Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease' (February 2007)	1 January 2008
Interpretation 14 'AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction'	1 January 2008

Changes in Accounting Estimates

There were no changes in accounting estimates that will have an effect on the current reporting period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
5 Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries ^(a)	80,678	74,230
Protective clothing and uniforms	2,323	2,241
Superannuation - defined benefit plans ^{(b) (c)}	-	419
Superannuation - defined contribution plans: ^(d)		
Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Board	9,329	8,986
Government Employees Superannuation Board	850	818
Long service leave ^(e)	1,958	3,372
Annual leave ^(e)	11,125	11,378
Other related expenses	395	512
	106,658	101,956

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.

(b) Defined benefit plans include Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit). (See note 2 (v) 'Superannuation expense')

(c) An equivalent notional income is also recognised for the GESB Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit). However, in this financial year, GESB has estimated a negative movement resulting in a nil liability. (see note 18 'Income from State Government')

(d) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State, GESB Super Scheme (contributions paid) and FESSB Fund.

(e) Includes a superannuation contribution component.

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 13 'Other expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 29 'Provisions'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
6 Supplies and services		
Administration	3,337	2,973
Advertising and promotion expense	692	874
Communication	2,204	1,822
Consultants and contractors	11,794	12,575
Ex-gratia payments	-	200
Electricity and water expense	1,283	1,071
Insurance premiums and claims	2,048	2,390
Leases	13,141	10,819
Maintenance	13,194	10,168
Travel	2,842	2,693
	50,535	45,585
7 Depreciation and amortisation expense		
(a) Depreciation		
Buildings	2,937	2,735
Vehicles	4,594	4,005
Plant & equipment	1,880	1,933
Total depreciation	9,411	8,673
(b) Amortisation		
Intangible assets	117	106
Total depreciation and amortisation	9,528	8,779
8 Finance costs		
Interest paid	2,262	1,998
9 Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	1,343	1,550
Repairs and maintenance	4,801	4,526
	6,144	6,076

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
10 Grants and subsidies		
Emergency Service Levy grants paid in accordance with the provisions of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Act 1998 and the Local Government Manual for Capital and Operating Grants:		
- Local Governments	15,983	15,952
- Private Fire Brigades	112	70
Natural Disaster grants paid in accordance with the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements; Natural Disaster Mitigation Program; All West Australians Reducing Emergencies grant (AWARE); and other discretionary grants.	22,299	34,863
Grants and subsidies paid to volunteer establishments and external bodies in line with approved schemes, agreements and statutes encompassing the Association of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades WA, Emergency Services Volunteer Association, SES Volunteer Association of WA, Volunteer Marine Rescue of WA, Surf Life Saving Association WA and Western Australian Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services.	2,857	2,531
	41,251	53,416
11 Capital user charge		
Capital user charge	-	2,228
The charge was a levy applied by Government for the use of its capital. The final charge was levied in 2006-07.		
12 Gain / (loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
<u>WDV of disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Vehicles	3	90
<u>Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Vehicles	116	206
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	(1)	-
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	113	116
Net gain on disposal of non-current assets	112	116

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
13 Other expenses		
Doubtful debts	-	4
Employment on-costs ^(a)	1,904	1,899
Other ^(b)	92	276
	1,996	2,179
<p>(a) Includes worker's compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 29 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employment benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.</p> <p>(b) Audit fee, see also note 38 'Remuneration of auditor'.</p>		
14 User charges and fees		
User charges	4,326	3,910
Emergency services levy	160,939	146,099
	165,265	150,009
15 Commonwealth grants and contributions		
Capital	960	150
Recurrent	4,874	3,605
Other	116	884
	5,950	4,639
<p>An amount of \$1,093,000 was received in 2007/08 for the Urban Search and Rescue Program of which \$991,600 remains unexpended as at 30 June 2008. The terms of the program provide for the acquisition of 2 Platform-On-Demand (PODS), a carrier, specialised rescue equipment, and the establishment of a medical cache.</p> <p>An amount of \$1,222,900 was received in 2007/08 for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) of which \$297,700 remains unexpended as at 30 June 2008. NDMP funds natural disaster mitigation works, measures and related activities that contribute to safer and sustainable communities that are better able to withstand the effects of natural disasters.</p>		
16 Interest revenue		
Interest from term deposits	4,365	4,203
Interest from Emergency Services Levy	104	140
	4,469	4,343

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
17 Other revenue		
Employee and volunteer cost recovery	1,540	1,425
Write back of allowance for impairment of receivables	-	3,286
Sponsorship and donations	1,312	2,227
Contributed assets	3,603	1,648
Other	1,811	986
	8,266	9,572
18 Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service Appropriation ^(a)	46,631	59,277
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year:		
Superannuation ^(b)	-	419
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	419
Resources received free of charge ^(c)		
Determined on the basis of estimates provided by:		
Western Australian Land Information Authority	1,586	2,745
Department for Planning and Infrastructure	11	-
	48,228	62,441

(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the net cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

(b) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is a notional income to match the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Superannuation Scheme. In this financial year, GESB has estimated a negative movement resulting in a nil liability. (The notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 5 'Employee benefits expense').

(c) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Authority recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. The exception occurs where the contribution of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, in which case the Authority makes the adjustment direct to equity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
19 Cash and cash equivalents		
Current		
Cash at bank	15,485	3,221
Rental property bonds	35	27
Term deposits	44,000	68,000
Cash on hand and advances	75	68
	59,595	71,316
See note 2(m) 'Cash and cash equivalents'		
20 Inventories		
Inventories held for consumption	1,316	1,129
Inventories held for distribution	7,371	5,145
	8,687	6,274

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned by the method most appropriate to each particular class of inventory, with the majority being valued using the average cost method.

Inventories not held for resale are valued at cost unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
21 Receivables		
Receivables	7,550	5,982
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(4)	(4)
Prepayments	619	563
Interest receivable	233	376
Goods and Services Tax receivable	1,207	840
	9,605	7,757
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:		
Balance at start of year	4	3,286
Doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement	-	4
Write back of Allowance for impairment	-	(3,286)
Balance at end of year	4	4
<i>Credit Risk</i>		
Aging of receivables past due but not impaired based on the information provided to senior management, at the balance sheet date:		
Not more than 3 months	1,939	203
More than 3 months but less than 6 months	287	140
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	1,752	1,948
More than 1 year	380	119
	4,358	2,410
The Authority does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to receivables.		
See also note 2(o) 'Receivables' and note 36 'Financial instruments'.		
22 Amounts receivable for services		
Current	-	1,261
Non-current	2,355	-
	2,355	1,261

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 2(p) 'Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)'. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
23 Property, plant and equipment		
Land		
At fair value ^(a)	67,204	45,021
Buildings		
At fair value ^(a)	88,606	83,445
Accumulated depreciation	(24)	(3,196)
	88,582	80,249
Buildings under construction		
Construction costs	14,019	3,057
Vehicles		
At cost	64,167	58,833
Accumulated depreciation	(30,422)	(26,311)
	33,745	32,522
Vehicles under construction		
Construction costs	10,827	7,110
Plant and equipment		
At cost	19,191	17,801
Accumulated depreciation	(11,733)	(9,993)
	7,458	7,808
Plant and equipment under construction		
Construction costs	7,324	2,711
Works of Art		
At cost	158	158
	229,317	178,636

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2007 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2008 and recognised at 30 June 2008. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$18,181,200 and buildings: \$4,352,000. Where there is no market based evidence of fair value because of the specialised nature of the asset (fire stations), fair value of land and buildings was determined on the basis of current use and depreciated replacement cost. See note 2(g) 'Property, plant and equipment'.

Valuation Services, the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Treasury and Finance assessed the valuations globally to ensure that the valuations provided (as at 1 July 2007) were compliant with fair value at 30 June 2008.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

23 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below.

	Land \$000	Buildings \$000	Buildings under construction \$000	Vehicles \$000	Vehicles under construction \$000	Plant and equipment \$000	Plant and equipment under construction \$000	Works of Art \$000	Total \$000
2008									
Carrying amount at start of year	45,021	80,249	3,057	32,522	7,110	7,808	2,711	158	178,636
Additions	1,647	2,067	11,656	75	9,462	1,530	5,367	-	31,804
Transfers	-	1,448	(694)	5,745	(5,745)	-	(754)	-	-
Disposals ^(a)	(189)	(555)	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	(747)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	20,725	8,310	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,035
Depreciation	-	(2,937)	-	(4,594)	-	(1,880)	-	-	(9,411)
Carrying amount at end of year	67,204	88,582	14,019	33,745	10,827	7,458	7,324	158	229,317
2007									
Carrying amount at start of year	32,430	53,337	3,950	28,872	6,259	7,699	1,478	160	134,185
Additions	2,788	1	5,448	804	7,927	1,898	1,540	-	20,406
Transfers	38	6,303	(6,341)	6,941	(6,941)	307	(307)	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(90)	-	-	-	-	(90)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(135)	(163)	-	(2)	(300)
Revaluation increments	9,765	23,343	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,108
Depreciation	-	(2,735)	-	(4,005)	-	(1,933)	-	-	(8,673)
Carrying amount at end of year	45,021	80,249	3,057	32,522	7,110	7,808	2,711	158	178,636

^(a) Represents land and buildings transferred to other agencies. See also note 30 'Equity'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

24 Intangible assets

Computer software

At cost

Accumulated amortisation

1,830	1,656
(1,650)	(1,534)
180	122

Trademarks

At cost

22	22
202	144

Reconciliations:

Computer software

Carrying amount at start of year

Additions

Amortisation expense

Carrying amount at end of year

122	161
175	67
(117)	(106)
180	122

Trademarks

Carrying amount at start of year

Carrying amount at end of year

22	22
22	22

25 Other financial assets

Non- current

Investments

See also note 2(r) 'Other financial assets'.

500	500
------------	------------

26 Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets at 30 June 2008.

27 Payables

Trade payables

Interest payable

Accrued salaries

Accrued expenditure

GST payable

7,025	8,357
610	426
1,472	5,091
183	1,386
91	91
9,381	15,351

See also note 2(s) 'Payables' and note 36 'Financial instruments'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
28 Borrowings		
Current		
WATC Loans	33,174	12,550
Non-current		
WATC Loans	5,207	20,315
The funds have been advanced under the Corporation's Portfolio Lending Arrangements. Under the terms and conditions of these arrangements the Authority makes quarterly payments of capital and interest. The capital is repaid according to a fixed repayment schedule, while interest is variable.		
29 Provisions		
Current		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Annual leave ^(a)	5,050	4,618
Long service leave ^(b)	4,473	4,457
Deferred salary scheme	68	27
	9,591	9,102
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	1,184	1,326
	10,775	10,428
Non - current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	6,904	6,347
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	720	704
	7,624	7,051
(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:		
Within 12 months of balance sheet date	3,747	3,470
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	1,303	1,148
	5,050	4,618

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

29 Provisions (continued)

(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date

More than 12 months after balance sheet date

2008 \$000	2007 \$000
2,194	1,877
9,184	8,927
11,378	10,804

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense is disclosed in note 13 'Other expenses'.

Movements in other provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below.

Employment on-cost provision

Carrying amount at start of year

Additional provisions recognised

Carrying amount at end of year

2,030	1,907
(126)	123
1,904	2,030

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
30 Equity		
Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Authority. The Government holds the equity interest in the Authority on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.		
Contributed equity		
Balance at the start of the year	58,363	58,113
Contributions by owners		
Capital contribution ^(a)	1,210	250
Transfer of net assets from other agencies ^(a)	490	-
Lot 500 Coolibah Drive, Kununurra transferred to the Authority to facilitate the construction of the Kununurra Emergency Services Centre.		
Lot 304 Banksia Drive, Coral Bay transferred to the Authority under Management Order		
Total contributions by owners	1,700	250
Distributions to owners		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies ^(b)	(744)	-
Lot 987-989 Agate Lane Kununurra transferred to Department of Planning and Infrastructure to facilitate the construction of the Kununurra Emergency Services Centre.		
Balance at end of year	59,319	58,363
^(a) Capital Contributions (appropriations) and non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets from other State government agencies have been designated as contributions by owners in Treasurer's Instruction T1 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and are credited directly to equity.		
^(b) UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires that where the transferee accounts for a transfer as a contribution by owner, the transfer or must account for the transfer as a distribution to owners. Consequently, non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets to other State government agencies are distribution to owners and are debited directly to equity.		
Reserves		
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at start of year	48,119	15,011
Net revaluation increments:		
Buildings	8,310	9,765
Land	20,725	23,343
Balance at end of year	77,154	48,119
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at start of year	93,711	84,808
Result for the period	13,916	8,903
Balance at end of year	107,627	93,711

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
31 Notes to the Cash Flow Statement		
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	59,595	71,316
See also note 19 'Cash and cash equivalents'.		
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities		
Net cost of services	(34,312)	(53,538)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9,528	8,779
Net (gain) on sale of property, plant and equipment	(112)	(116)
Resources received free of charge	1,597	2,745
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	419
Write-off on Non-Current Asset	-	300
<u>(Increase) in assets:</u>		
Current receivables	(1,481)	(3,673)
Current inventories	(2,413)	(628)
Non-current assets	(175)	(67)
<u>Increase / (decrease) in liabilities:</u>		
Current payables	(5,970)	3,047
Current provisions	347	3,588
Other current liabilities	-	1,889
Non-current provisions	573	(1,081)
Change in GST in receivables/payables	(367)	(204)
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(32,785)	(38,539)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
32 Commitments		
Capital expenditure commitments		
Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	38,790	39,636
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	101,990	15,210
Later than 5 years	43,137	5,400
	183,917	60,246
The capital commitments include amounts for:		
Buildings	88,793	10,015
Motor vehicles	66,826	27,640
Plant and equipment	28,298	22,591
	183,917	60,246
Lease commitments		
Commitments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases contracted for at the balance sheet date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	8,042	1,902
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	16,319	2,023
Later than 5 years	1,122	1
	25,483	3,926
FESA has various operational leases, the most significant being:		
- The provision of Rotary Wing Aircraft Rescue and Medical Transport Services is a non-cancellable lease with a five year term, with rent payable monthly. An option exists at the end of the five year term for an additional 2 x 2 years extension option and a further one year final extension; and		
- The leasing of vehicles by State Fleet under an arrangement established by authority of the WA State Supply Commission. A contractual arrangement covers all vehicles leased by the FESA from State Fleet. In relation to each new vehicle FESA selects the preferred vehicle kilometre specification and lease term, with monthly lease payments.		
See also note 2(j) 'Leases'.		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

33 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities

In addition to the liabilities included in the financial statements, there is the following contingent liability:

Contaminated sites

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, the Authority is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In accordance with the Act, DEC classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated the Authority may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

Last financial year the Authority reported 1 contaminated site to DEC. The site is a former drum storage area at the FESA Training Centre located at Dundas Rd Forrestfield. The Authority is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows. Whilst there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of this site, the Authority has applied and received funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work and may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to meet remediation costs that may be required.

In 2007/08, the tender to select a consultant to undertake a detail site investigation commenced. Recommendations from the tender have been completed in August 2008 by Landcorp. The next phase of the project is for a risk assessment and health management plan followed by the clean up and ongoing management.

34 Events occurring after the balance sheet date

The Authority's Western Australian Treasury Corporation borrowings totalling \$32,900,000 has been repaid in July 2008. The Authority received funding from the Consolidated Account to make the repayment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

35 Explanatory statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$5 million.

Significant variances between estimated and actual result for 2008

	2008 Estimate \$000	2008 Actual \$000	Variation \$000
Depreciation and amortisation expense	10,634	9,528	(1,106)
Finance costs	4,479	2,262	(2,217)
Accommodation expenses	2,227	6,144	3,917
Grants and subsidies	22,076	41,251	19,175
Other expenses	1,556	1,996	440
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3,025	5,950	2,925
Interest revenue	2,500	4,469	1,969
Other revenue	1,372	8,266	6,894
Service appropriation	30,632	46,631	15,999

Depreciation and amortisation expense

The variance is mostly due to delays in the construction of facilities due to the overheated building economy in Western Australia which has resulted in lower depreciation charges than anticipated.

Finance costs

The variance is mainly due to FESA using internal funds rather than the planned borrowings to fund its Capital Works Program. This change in funding source, together with delays in the completion of some facilities, has resulted in significantly lower financing costs than anticipated.

Accommodation expenses

The variance is largely due to the reclassification of expenditure on building maintenance from Supplies and services to Accommodation expenses in accordance with the Department of Treasury and Finance guidelines.

Grants and subsidies

The over-expenditure is directly related to payments made under the Natural Disaster Relief and Restoration Arrangements (NDRRA). The State Government reimburses FESA for this expenditure in accordance with an approved funding process.

Other expenses

The variance is primarily due to the reclassification of employment on-costs from Employee benefits expense to Other expenses in accordance with the Department of Treasury and Finance guidelines.

Commonwealth grants and contributions

The variance is largely due to a variation in the Commonwealth funding arrangement for the Urban Search and Rescue Program, together with additional NAFC funding for the Fire King Helicopter.

Interest revenue

The variance is mainly due to higher interest rates through improved investment strategies throughout the year.

Other revenue

The variance is largely attributable to ad hoc activities and therefore difficult to estimate. Significant unbudgeted revenues were received in relation to the transfer of the Mundaring Emergency Services Centre to FESA, the Western Rescue Exercise, employee and volunteer cost recoveries, sponsorships and Emergency Connect Western Australia.

Service appropriation

The variance is primarily due to the agreed supplementary funding arrangement. Supplementary funding was provided to reimburse FESA for unbudgeted costs associated with NDRRA, wildfire suppression and State Emergency Services incident responses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

35 Explanatory statement (continued)

Significant variances between actual results for 2008 and 2007

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000	Variation \$000
Supplies and services	50,535	45,585	4,950
Finance Costs	2,262	1,998	264
Grants and subsidies	41,251	53,416	(12,165)
Capital user charge	-	2,228	(2,228)
User charges and fees	165,265	150,009	15,256
Commonwealth grants and contributions	5,950	4,639	1,311
Other revenue	8,266	9,572	(1,306)
Service appropriations	46,631	59,277	(12,646)
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	419	(419)
Resources received free of charge	1,597	2,745	(1,148)

Supplies and services

The variance is mostly due to an increase in hire standing fees for the Authority's aerial services, general maintenance and fuel costs of vehicles. The increase in maintenance of breathing apparatus and rescue equipment and the Emergency Radio Network project also contributed to the variance.

Finance Costs

The variance is mainly attributable to an increase in accrued interest as a result of the Authority's WATC borrowings being repaid during July 2008.

Grants and subsidies

The variance is primarily due to a repayment to the Commonwealth Government during the year ending 2007.

Capital user charge

The variance is due to the final charge being levied in the year ended 2007.

User charges and fees

The variance is mainly due to the increase in collection of the Emergency Services Levy and additional income received from the Commercial Training Unit.

Commonwealth grants and contributions

The variance is due to increased capital funding for the Urban Search and Rescue project.

Other revenue

The variance is largely attributable to the write back of allowance for impairment of receivables in the year ended 2007. This is offset by an increase in the Authority's contributed assets to the local governments.

Service appropriation

The variance is largely due to the supplementary funding provided to FESA for costs associated with NDRRA, wildfire suppression and State Emergency Services incident responses.

Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer

The variance is due to a negative movement in the Authority's superannuation liability.

Resources received free of charge

The variance is in the largely due to a reduction in services provided by Landgate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

36 Financial instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by the Authority are cash and cash equivalents, term deposits, borrowings from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC), receivables and payables. The Authority has limited exposure to financial risks. The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Authority's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. The Authority measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on a regular basis. The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment as shown in the table at Note 36(c).

Credit risk associated with the Authority's financial assets is minimal. Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Authority's exposure to bad debts is minimal. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk. Provision for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on past experience, and current and expected changes in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to Note 21 'Receivables'.

Liquidity risk

The Authority is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when the Authority is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market risk

The Authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. The Authority's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relate primarily to the long term debt obligations. The Authority's borrowings are all obtained through the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC) and are at fixed rates with varying maturities. The risk is managed by WATC through portfolio diversification and variation in maturity dates. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 36(c), the Authority is not exposed to interest rate risk other than WATC borrowings.

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	59,595	71,316
Receivables ^(a)	9,901	7,239
Other financial assets	500	500
Financial Liabilities		
Payables ^(b)	9,381	15,351
WATC loans	38,381	32,865

(a) The amount of Receivables excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of Payables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory payable).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

36 Financial instruments (continued)

(c) Financial Instrument disclosures

Credit Risk, Liquidity Risk and Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The following table details the exposure to liquidity risk and interest rate risk as at the balance sheet date. The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown on the following table. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Authority. The contractual maturity amounts in the table are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. An adjustment for discounting has been made where material.

The Authority does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Authority does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Current \$000	Contractual Maturity Dates:						Non-Interest Bearing \$000	Carrying Amount \$000
			Within 1 year \$000	1-2 Years \$000	2-3 Years \$000	3-4 Years \$000	4-5 Years \$000	More than 5 \$000		
2008										
Financial assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	7.89	15,485	44,000	-	-	-	-	-	110	59,595
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,398	8,398
Other financial assets	7.89	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	500
Amounts receivable for services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,355	2,355
		15,485	44,000	-	-	-	-	500	10,863	70,848
Financial liabilities										
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,289	9,289
WATC loans	6.69	-	33,174	274	274	274	274	4,111	-	38,381
		-	33,174	274	274	274	274	4,111	9,289	47,670
2007										
Financial assets										
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.46	3,221	68,000	-	-	-	-	-	95	71,316
Receivables ^(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,757	7,757
Other financial assets	6.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	500
Amounts receivable for services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,261	1,261
		3,221	68,000	-	-	-	-	500	9,113	80,834
Financial liabilities										
Payables ^(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,875	8,875
WATC loans	6.22	-	12,550	2,748	2,748	2,748	2,748	9,323	-	32,865
		-	12,550	2,748	2,748	2,748	2,748	9,323	8,875	41,740

(a) The amount of Receivables excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of Payables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory payable).

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

36 Financial instruments (continued)

(c) Financial Instrument disclosures (continued)

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying amount \$000	-1 % Change		+1 % Change	
		Profit \$000	Equity \$000	Profit \$000	Equity \$000
2008					
Financial assets					
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	59,595	(596.0)	(596.0)	596.0	596.0
Receivables	9,605	(96.1)	(96.1)	96.1	96.1
Other financial assets	500	(5.0)	(5.0)	5.0	5.0
Financial liabilities					
WATC loans	38,381	383.8	383.8	(383.8)	(383.8)
Total Increase (Decrease)		<u>(313.3)</u>	<u>(313.3)</u>	<u>313.3</u>	<u>313.3</u>
2007					
Financial assets					
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	71,316	(713.2)	(713.2)	713.2	713.2
Receivables	7,757	(77.6)	(77.6)	77.6	77.6
Other financial assets	500	(5.0)	(5.0)	5.0	5.0
Financial liabilities					
WATC loans	32,865	328.7	328.7	(328.7)	(328.7)
Total Increase (Decrease)		<u>(467.1)</u>	<u>(467.1)</u>	<u>467.1</u>	<u>467.1</u>

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

37 Remuneration of members of the accountable authority and senior officers

2008
\$000

2007
\$000

Remuneration of members of the accountable authority

The number of members of the accountable authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2008 No.	2007 No.
0 - 10,000	8	8
10,001 - 20,000	4	4
20,001 - 30,000	1	-
30,001 - 40,000	-	1
260,001 - 270,000	1	1

The total remuneration of members of the accountable authority is:

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the authority in respect of members of the accountable authority. No members of the accountable authority are members of the Pension Scheme.

385

348

Remuneration of senior officers

The number of senior officers, other than senior officers reported as members of the accountable authority, whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2008 No.	2007 No.
20,000 - 30,000	1	1
30,001 - 40,000	1	2
50,001 - 60,000	1	-
60,001 - 70,000	1	-
70,001 - 80,000	-	1
80,001 - 90,000	-	1
90,001 - 100,000	2	-
100,001 - 110,000	1	3
110,001 - 120,000	1	4
120,001 - 130,000	1	3
130,001 - 140,000	5	6
140,001 - 150,000	-	2
150,001 - 160,000	1	-
170,001 - 180,000	-	1
180,001 - 190,000	-	1
210,001 - 220,000	1	-

The total remuneration of senior officers is:

1,736

2,848

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of senior officers other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority. No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
38 Remuneration of auditor		
Remuneration payable to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:		
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	105	92
The expense is included at note 13 'Other expenses'.		
39 Related bodies		
The Authority has no related bodies at balance sheet date.		
40 Affiliated bodies		
The following are classified as non-government affiliated bodies and receive indirect and/or direct financial assistance.		
Direct financial assistance is given in the form of a grant. Indirect financial assistance is also given in the form of administrative support including the use of a motor vehicle and running costs, office accommodation and minor administrative support.		
Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades WA Inc	25	25
SES Volunteer Association of WA Inc	48	48
Surf Life Saving Association WA	540	-
Volunteer Marine Rescue WA	126	45
Western Australian Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services Association	250	262
	989	380
41 Supplementary financial information		
<u>Losses through theft, defaults and other causes</u>		
Losses of public moneys and, public and other property through theft or default	413	68
Amounts recovered	(288)	(54)
	125	14
42 Indian Ocean Territories		
The funds provided by the Department of Transport and Regional Services have been spent on the provision of services to the Indian Ocean Territories as specified in the Service Delivery Arrangements entered into between the State and Commonwealth.		
Opening Balance	152,065	59,751
Total Receipts	660,821	538,168
Total Expenditure	(648,104)	(445,854)
Closing Balance	164,782	\$152,065

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

43 Schedule of income and expenses by service

	As at 30 June 2008			As at 30 June 2007		
	Prevention Services \$000	Emergency Services \$000	Total \$000	Prevention Services \$000	Emergency Services \$000	Total \$000
COST OF SERVICES						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	13,040	93,618	106,658	16,518	85,438	101,956
Supplies and services	5,185	45,350	50,535	2,679	43,046	45,585
Depreciation and amortisation expense	1,074	8,454	9,528	239	8,540	8,779
Finance costs	255	2,007	2,262	34	1,964	1,998
Accommodation expense	590	5,554	6,144	416	5,660	6,076
Grants and subsidies	1,129	40,122	41,251	188	53,228	53,416
Capital user charge	-	-	-	221	2,007	2,228
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other expense	244	1,752	1,996	86	1,953	2,179
Total cost of services	21,517	196,858	218,375	20,381	201,836	222,217
Income						
Regulatory fees and fines	-	-	-	13,479	132,620	146,099
User charges and fees	16,491	148,774	165,265	388	3,522	3,910
Commonwealth grants & contributions	593	5,357	5,950	460	4,179	4,639
Other grants and contributions	-	-	-	261	2,373	2,634
Interest revenue	446	4,023	4,469	432	3,911	4,343
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	11	102	113	12	104	116
Other revenue	825	7,441	8,266	688	6,250	6,938
Total Income other than income from State Government	18,366	165,697	184,063	15,720	152,959	168,679
NET COST OF SERVICES	3,151	31,161	34,312	4,661	48,877	53,538
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation and contributions	4,653	41,978	46,631	5,881	53,396	59,277
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	-	-	68	351	419
Resources received free of charge	159	1,438	1,597	271	2,474	2,745
Total Income from State Government	4,812	43,416	48,228	6,220	56,221	62,441
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,661	12,255	13,916	1,559	7,344	8,903

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

CERTIFICATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

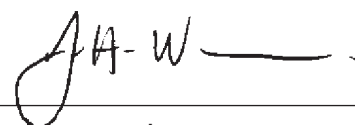
We hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.



A Skinner

Chairman of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008



J Harrison-Ward

Member of Accountable Authority

4 September 2008

DETAIL ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

FESA's core business is to support the first State Government goal outlined in Better Services: Better Futures, specifically strategic outcome 1.3 – A safe community.

In line with this responsibility we have adopted one outcome:

- The impact of human and natural hazards on the community of Western Australia is minimised.

FESA aims to achieve this outcome by providing two services:

- Prevention Services.
- Emergency Services.

Prevention Services

The objective of our prevention services is to increase the community's awareness of human and natural hazards and its involvement in minimising their impact.

We deliver a range of community programs and campaigns that assist community members to prevent human hazards and mitigate the risks they face. Our aim is to improve the community's preparation for natural hazards and their resilience to deal with emergencies if and when they occur. We also have responsibility for state mitigation of natural hazards through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.

Some of our campaigns focus on seasonal risks, for example Cyclone Ready, Prepare Stay and Defend or Go Early, Storm Season, Winterfire and Dry Season. Other programs are delivered year round and target specific community groups. Some examples include our Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness program, Schools Education program, marine safety awareness, smoke alarm awareness and Indigenous programs as well as bushfire and environmental protection programs.

As part of our prevention services, we also deliver training to the community and other stakeholder groups. On behalf of EMA, we deliver emergency management training to local government and representatives from other emergency service organisations through the All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program. The Commercial Training Unit also delivers a range of awareness and training programs to government and community stakeholders.

Emergency Services

The objective of our emergency services is to ensure that operational personnel are appropriately trained, resourced and prepared to deliver a timely and effective response to emergency incidents. By delivering emergency services across Western Australia we support the community to minimise the economic, environmental and social impact of emergencies.

OUTCOMES BASED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

Our current key performance indicators do not reflect the full range of services that we deliver to the community and provide only a limited representation of our performance.

In 2008-09, we will conduct a comprehensive review of our outcomes based management structure. The key objective is to develop improved indicators and targets that more clearly identify FESA outcomes and service performance in the achievement of government goals.

EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Number of Accidental Residential Fires per 100,000 Households

Although fewer structure fires are reported each year compared to landscape (bush and grass) fires, structure fires pose a high risk to life and property. During 2007-08, we recorded two deaths and more than \$45 million of property damage resulting from accidental residential fires.

Raising community awareness of hazards and risks can, over time, lead to behavioural change and fewer emergencies. Our Wintersafe and Summer Safe campaigns assist the community to prevent accidental residential fires. Promoting the importance of smoke alarms and the development of escape plans also helps people to prepare for those instances when emergencies do occur and minimise their impact.

Other initiatives that support the reduction of emergencies are:

- Our Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness (JAFFA) program that targets juveniles who engage in inappropriate fire lighting.
- Our work with industry representatives to improve fire safety standards for electrical appliances used within the home.

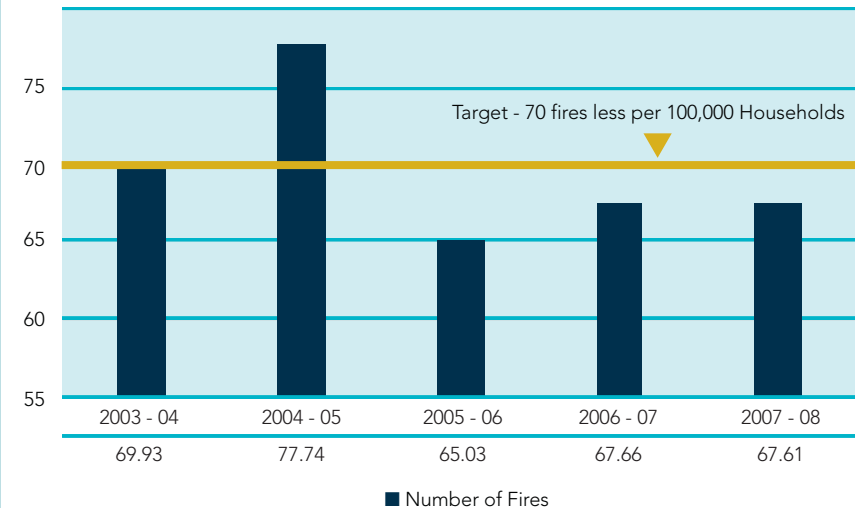
A range of complex variables affect the incidence of fires. A direct relationship cannot be made between the number of fires and the effectiveness of services in any given year.

In 2007-08, our career and volunteer personnel responded to 27,364 incidents. Of these, 1,538 were structure fires and 567 were classified as 'accidental residential' by service personnel.

Our target for this indicator is 70 or less fires per 100,000 households. Fewer fires indicate safer community behaviour and a more effective outcome.

Figure 1.1 provides data for the past five years and indicates a general improvement compared to 2003-04.

Figure 1.1: Number of Accidental Residential Fires per 100,000 households



¹ Structure fires are those fires in housing and other buildings (Source: RoGS)

² Accidental residential fires include fires in residential property, apartments, rooming and lodging houses that are not considered to have started as a result of deliberate lighting (arson activity).

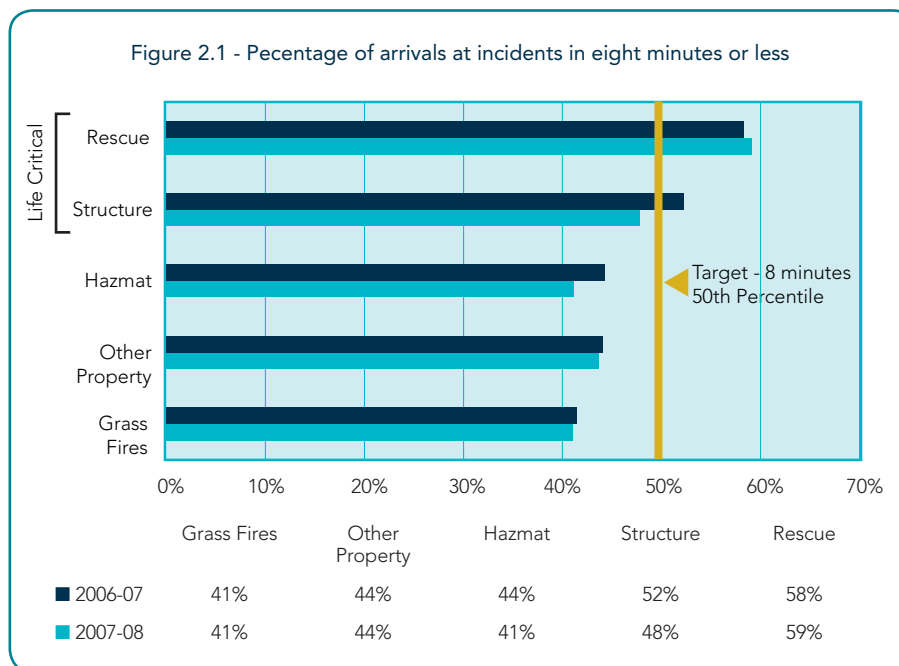
Response Times

The community expects a timely response to emergency incidents so that their impact can be minimised. Response time performance will differ within Western Australia and other states and territories depending on the distance that response crews are required to travel and whether the response is provided by career or volunteer personnel.

The major proportion of total incident responses are provided by career Fire and Rescue Services within the Perth Metropolitan area. Response data is provided for the metropolitan area where the primary response is provided by a career Fire and Rescue Service brigade. Response time results are provided for five major classes of emergencies: rescue, structure fires, hazardous materials incidents (HAZMAT), other property fires and vegetation fires.

Total response times are measured from the time the request for attendance is received to the time that emergency crews arrive at the scene of the incident. Our target for this indicator is that, for incident types where there is potential life involvement, a minimum of 50 percent of incidents will receive an initial response within eight minutes or less. Changes in response time performance can be attributed to a number of factors, including the location of the incident, weather and road conditions at the time and other concurrent demands across the response area.

Figure 2.1 shows the percentage of arrivals to incidents in eight minutes or less.



³ For the purposes of this indicator, the definition of metropolitan area is based on the ABS "Major Cities" classification, which includes Mandurah.

⁴ Non fire rescues including road crash rescue.

⁵ Structure fires are those fires in housing and other buildings (Source: RoGS).

⁶ HAZMAT includes petrol or flammable spills and gas leaks.

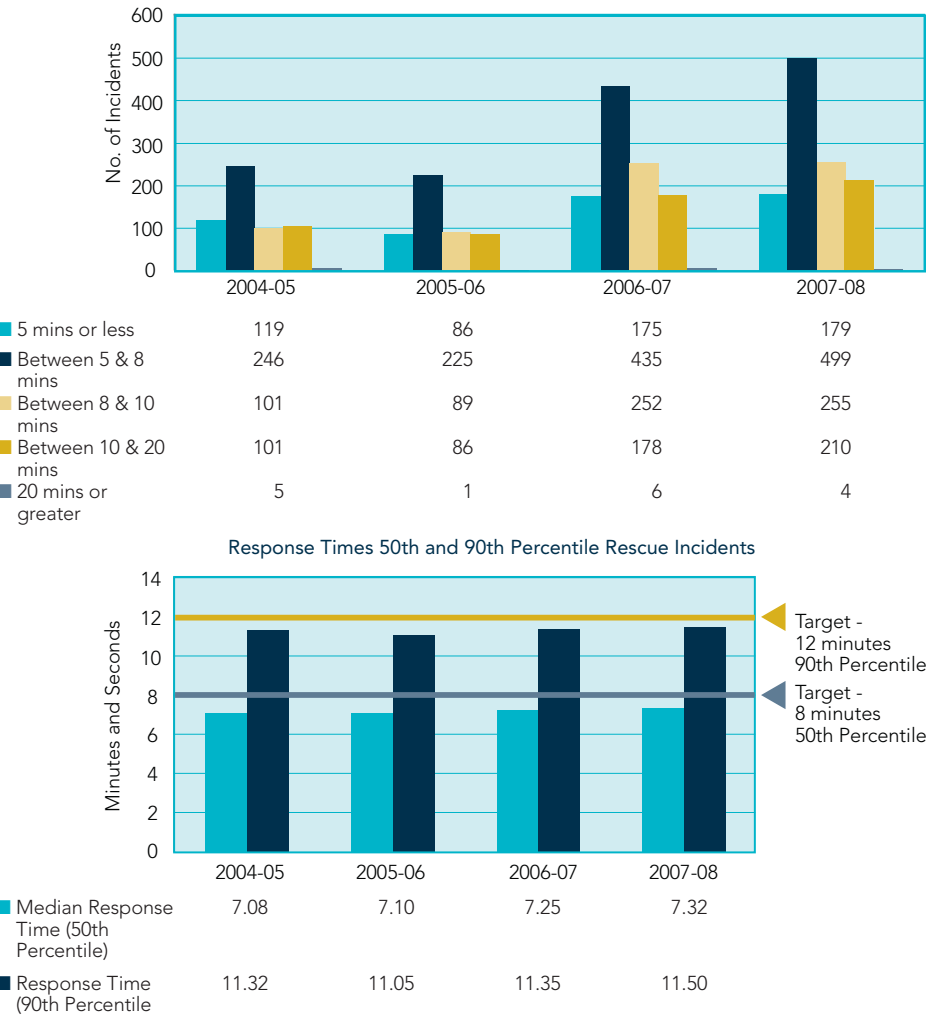
⁷ Other Property refers to fires in special structures including but not limited to piers, bridges, or tunnels, outside storage facilities and mobile property for example buses, aircraft and rail.

⁸ Vegetation fires include landscape and grass fires.

Figures 2.2 to 2.6 provide response time information for the five major classes of emergencies, including an indication of how many incidents receive a response within certain timeframe brackets. The data is based only on incidents where reporting is completed. Retrospective data entry will affect the results at any given time. Response time data for past years has been updated to reflect completed reports as at the end of 2007-08.

We are monitoring the percentage of incomplete reports and working with operational personnel to improve the time taken to complete reports. The automation of data capture through mobile data terminals in appliances is also anticipated to improve data quality and accuracy in the future.

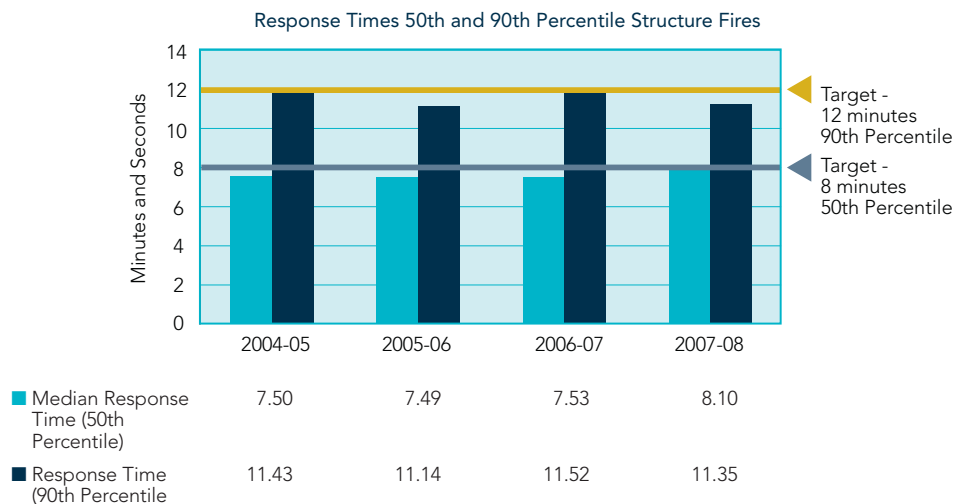
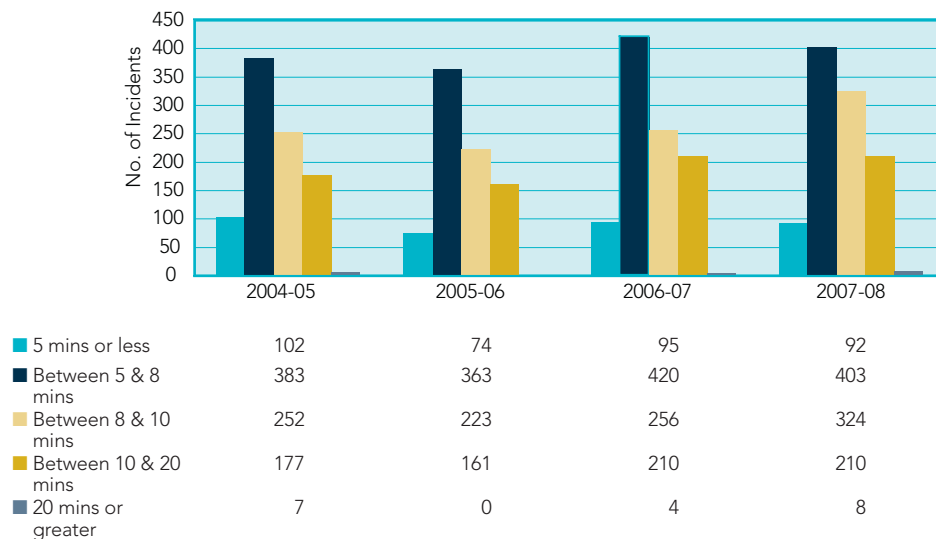
Figure 2.2 - Rescue Incidents



These times expressed in this table are in minutes and seconds	Median Response Time (50th Percentile)	Response Time (90th Percentile)	Number of Incidents Above 12 Minutes	Total Rescue Incidents	Minimum Total Response Times	Maximum Total Response Time
2004-05	7.08	11.32	58	572	0.02	23.37
2005-06	7.10	11.05	51	487	0.03	24.47
2006-07	7.25	11.35	108	1,046	0.01	22.15
2007-08	7.32	11.50	114	1,147	0.02	28.29
4 Year Average	7.19	11.30	83	813		

The total number of incidents used to calculate rescue response times in 2007-08 was 1,147. This is an increase of more than nine percent compared to 2006-07. The median response time increased by seven seconds and the 90th percentile response time increased by 15 seconds. We met our target response times for both the 50th and 90th percentiles. In 2007-08, 90.06 percent of rescue incidents received a response within 12 minutes compared to 89.67 percent in 2006-07.

Figure 2.3 - Structure Fires



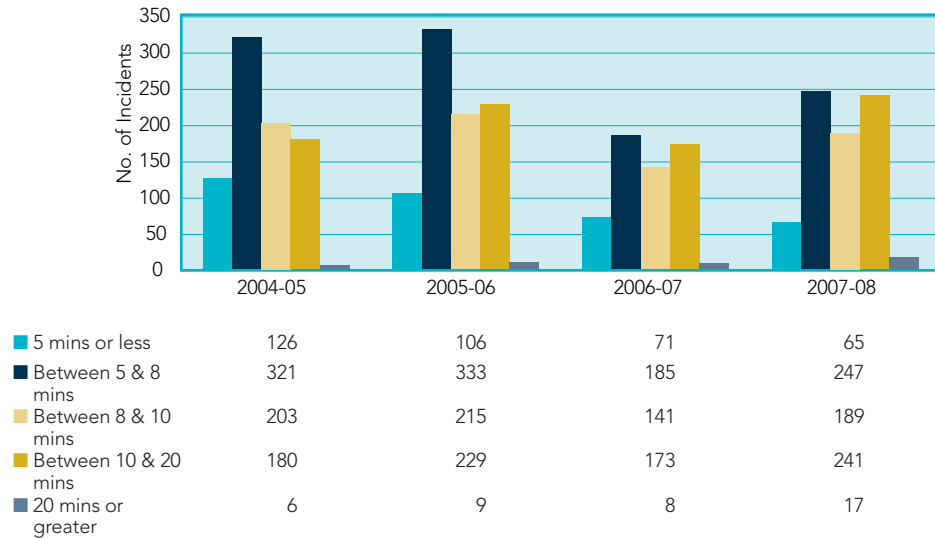
These times expressed in this table are in minutes and seconds	Median Response Time (50th Percentile)	Response Time (90th Percentile)	Number of Incidents Above 12 Minutes	Total Structure Fire Incidents	Minimum Total Response Times	Maximum Total Response Time
2004-05	7.50	11.43	92	921	0.05	26.16
2005-06	7.49	11.14	82	821	0.03	18.13
2006-07	7.53	11.52	98	985	0.27	27.45
2007-08	8.10	11.35	104	1,037	0.04	26.15
4 Year Average	7.55	11.36	94	941		

The total number of incidents used to calculate structure fire response times in 2007-08 was 1,037, an increase of five percent compared to 2006-07. Our median response time increased by 17 seconds and our 90th percentile response time improved by 17 seconds. We met our targets for both the 50th and 90th percentiles. In 2007-08, 89.97 percent of structure fire incidents received a response within 12 minutes compared to 90.05 percent in 2006-07.

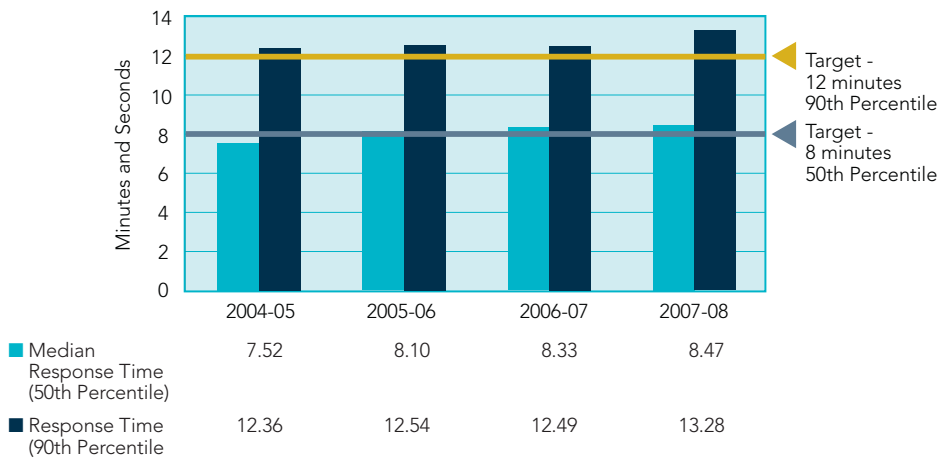
Response times for structure fires are also reported through the Report on Government Services issued by the Commonwealth in January of each year. In the Report on Government Services, response times are segmented according to 'remoteness areas' that are defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and include all services⁹.

⁹ All services data includes responses by career Fire and Rescue Service, volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Volunteer Fire Services, Volunteer Emergency Services and local government Bushfire Brigades.

Figure 2.4 - Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Incidents

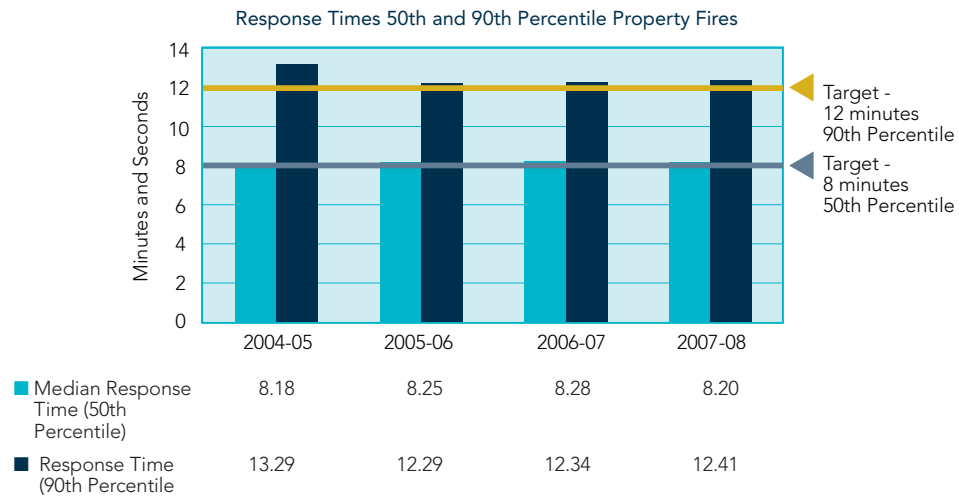
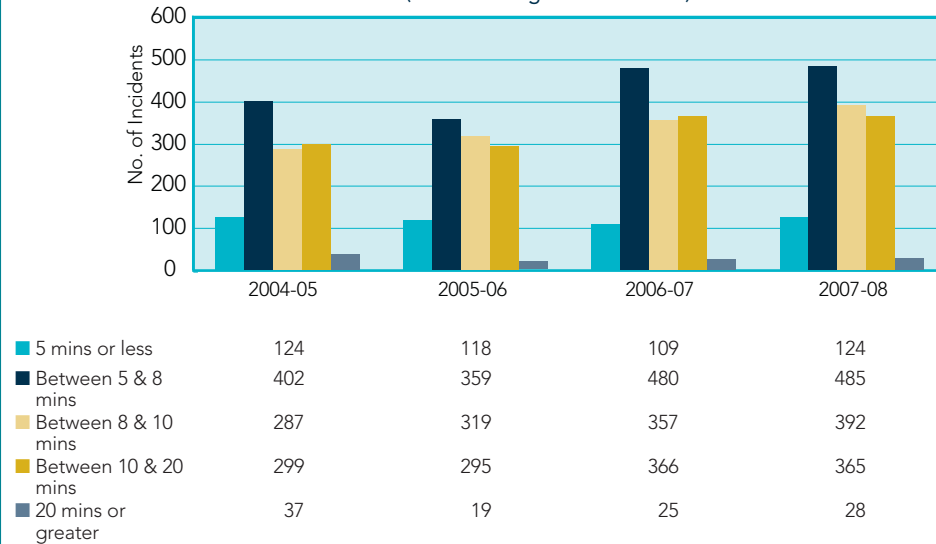


Response Times 50th and 90th Percentile HAZMAT Incidents



These times expressed in this table are in minutes and seconds	Median Response Time (50th Percentile)	Response Time (90th Percentile)	Number of Incidents Above 12 Minutes	Total HAZMAT Incidents	Minimum Total Response Times	Maximum Total Response Time
2004-05	7.52	12.36	88	836	0.03	27.42
2005-06	8.10	12.54	94	892	0.04	28.09
2006-07	8.33	12.49	60	578	0.03	24.47
2007-08	8.47	13.28	76	759	0.03	29.07
4 Year Average	8.20	12.57	80	766		

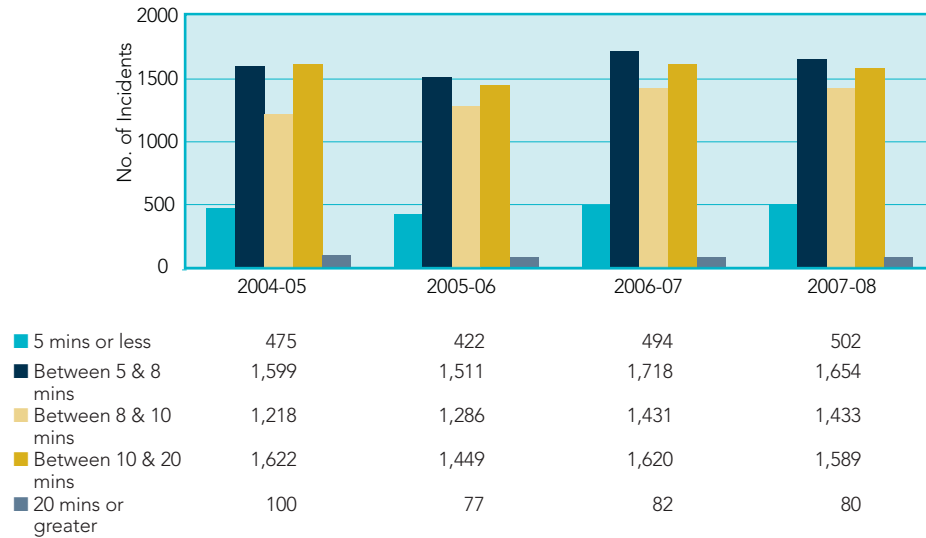
HAZMAT response time data includes petrol or flammable spills and gas leaks. The total number of incidents used to calculate HAZMAT response times in 2007-08 was 759, an increase of 31 percent compared to 2006-07. The median response time for HAZMAT incidents in 2007-08 increased by 14 seconds compared to 2006-07. The 90th percentile response time increased by 29 seconds. These times were slightly above target. In 2007-08, 89.99 percent of incidents received a response within 12 minutes compared to 89.62 percent in 2006-07.

Figure 2.5 - Other Property Fires
(Not including Structure Fires)

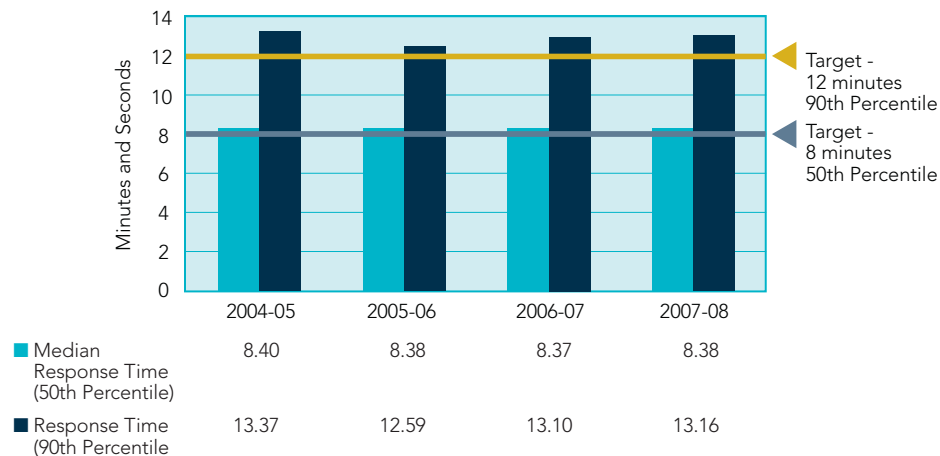
These times expressed in this table are in minutes and seconds	Median Response Time (50th Percentile)	Response Time (90th Percentile)	Number of Incidents Above 12 Minutes	Total Property Fires	Minimum Total Response Times	Maximum Total Response Time
2004-05	8.18	13.29	130	1,149	0.03	29.14
2005-06	8.25	12.29	122	1,110	0.03	28.24
2006-07	8.28	12.34	143	1,337	0.04	28.24
2007-08	8.20	12.41	150	1,394	0.02	28.30
4 Year Average	8.23	12.48	136	1,248		

The total number of incidents used to calculate other property response times in 2007-08 was 1,394. This is an increase of four percent compared to 2006-07. The median response time for this incident category has improved by eight seconds. The 90th percentile time increased by 7 seconds. These times were slightly above target. In 2007-08, 89.24 percent of other property incidents received a response within 12 minutes compared to 89.30 percent in 2006-07.

Figure 2.6 - Grass, Scrub, Rubbish and Bush Fires



Response Times 50th and 90th Percentile Grass, Scrub, Rubbish and Bush Fires



These times expressed in this table are in minutes and seconds	Median Response Time (50th Percentile)	Response Time (90th Percentile)	Number of Incidents Above 12 Minutes	Total Scrub, Rubbish and Bush Fire Incidents	Minimum Total Response Times	Maximum Total Response Time
2004-05	8.40	13.37	518	5,014	0.02	29.36
2005-06	8.38	12.59	485	4,745	0.01	30.00
2006-07	8.37	13.10	546	5,345	0.01	29.59
2007-08	8.38	13.16	535	5,258	0.01	29.56
4 Year Average	8.38	13.15	521	5,091		

The total number of incidents used to calculate response times for this category in 2007-08 was 5,258. This is a decrease of 1.6 percent compared to 2006-07. Response time for both the median and 90th percentile response time remained steady and slightly above target. In 2007-08, 89.83 percent of incidents in this category received a response within 12 minutes compared to 89.78 percent in 2006-07.

Proportion of Structure Fires Contained to Room or Object of Origin

Containing structure fires to the room or object of origin minimises damage to the rest of the structure, consequently reducing the overall impact of the fire. Structure fires are those fires which occur in housing and other buildings.

Although a higher proportion of containment is desirable, 100 percent containment can never be attained as the ability of emergency services to contain a fire is dependent on a number of variables. Uncontrollable factors such as weather conditions, building construction and different types of household furnishings will affect the rate at which the fire spreads. In addition, delays in detection and notification of emergency services will also affect the ability of emergency service crews to contain the fire to the room of origin.

Understanding why structure fires occur and how fire behaves in certain conditions is an important issue for our prevention services. Research and fire investigation initiatives are used to inform mitigation strategies, develop education programs, and improve standards, policy and legislation to assist in containing fires to the room of origin.

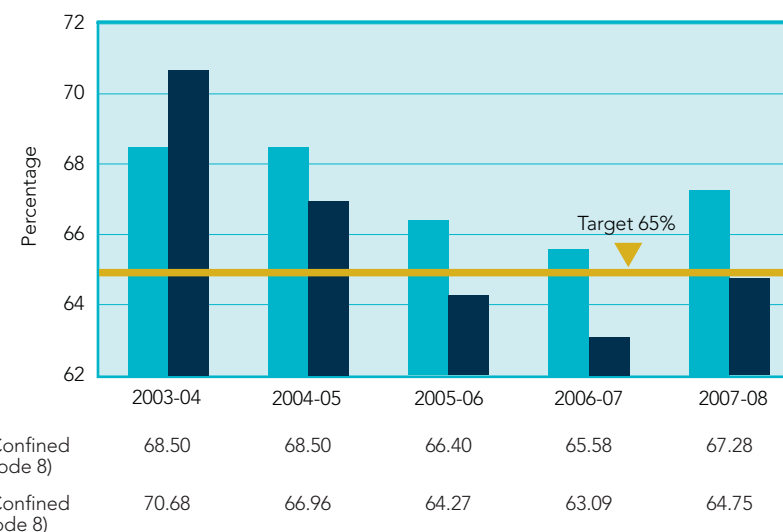
Prevention programs, such as Winterfire and the Smoke Alarm campaigns, encourage fire safety and awareness throughout the community. Raising awareness of the 000 emergency phone number also helps to encourage early notification, improving the opportunity to contain the fire.

Fire investigation into causes of ignition is used to inform the development of more effective education and awareness campaigns as well as legislation and standards. It is also used to assist in recovery through the provision of information to facilitate insurance claims and settlements.

In previous years, the calculation for this indicator included containment of smoke damage. In the 2008 Report on Government Services, the Productivity Commission changed the method of calculating confinement to exclude smoke damage (Code 8). Previous annual data has been recalculated for comparative purposes and is outlined below in Figure 3.1. The data includes all types of ignition, both accidental and deliberate.

The target for this indicator is 65 percent, with a higher percentage indicating better performance. In 2007-08, we improved our performance on this indicator for both methods of calculation.

Figure 3.1 - Structure Fires Confined to Room or Object of Origin (including/excluding non-fire damage)



Human Cost of Flood, Tropical Cyclone, Storm, Earthquake and Tsunami Hazards

Through the State Emergency Service, we are the hazard management agency for five major natural hazards – flood, tropical cyclone, storm, earthquake and tsunami. The human cost of these hazards in deaths and serious injuries is used to measure the effectiveness of preparedness and mitigation initiatives undertaken in partnership with local communities to reduce the impact of natural hazards and to improve the community's resilience to cope with and recover from natural emergencies when they occur.

The Bureau of Meteorology provides the standard definitions for natural emergency events. As shown in Table 4.1, there were 151 natural emergency events reported in 2007-08. This represents a 19 percent difference compared to 2006-07 with 126 incidents.

Table 4.1 – Five (5) Year Report of Deaths and Serious Injuries by Number of Hazard Events

Year	Number of events	Deaths	Serious Injuries ¹¹
2003-04	93	0	0
2004-05	199	0	0
2005-06	116	0	0
2006-07	126	Not available ¹²	Not available ¹²
2007-08	151	Not available ¹³	Not available ¹³
5-year total	685	0	0

As the natural environment is unpredictable, the number of emergency events will vary from year to year. The number of emergency events occurring in any given year is not indicative of the level of impact on the community. Alternative indicators, for example insurance claims following natural emergency events, will be considered during our review of our outcome based management structure.

A natural emergency event may result in a number of consequential emergency incidents requiring response by emergency services. Of all natural emergency events recorded throughout the year, storms are the most prolific events that impact on the lives of Western Australians. Rain, gale force winds and squalls are characteristic of weather experienced from May to September in the South West region of Western Australia. Severe storms accompanied by lightning, hail and flash flooding can cause damage to homes and properties – especially if residents are unprepared. Flooding, often a consequence of cyclone activity in the North West is the second most frequent natural event.

Although there is not a direct cause and effect relationship between natural hazard frequency and the incidence of death or injury, increased community preparedness and targeted mitigation measures will reduce the human cost of natural hazards.

Our prevention programs specifically targeting vulnerable communities include the Storm Season campaign, Wet Season campaign and Keeping our Mob Safe, a national emergency management strategy for remote Indigenous communities. Tsunami impact modelling and flood plain mapping will also assist in providing valuable data to support mitigation initiatives and reduction of the impact of natural events.

¹⁰ Number of event types is determined by data published by Geoscience Australia (Earthquakes) and the Bureau of Meteorology.

¹¹ Statistical data relating to deaths and serious injuries is provided by the Department of Health.

¹² Official data for the number of deaths and serious injuries resulting from Tropical Cyclone George is currently unavailable due to impending coronial inquiries.

¹³ Official data for 2007-08 is currently not available from Department of Health.

EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Average Cost per Prevention Service

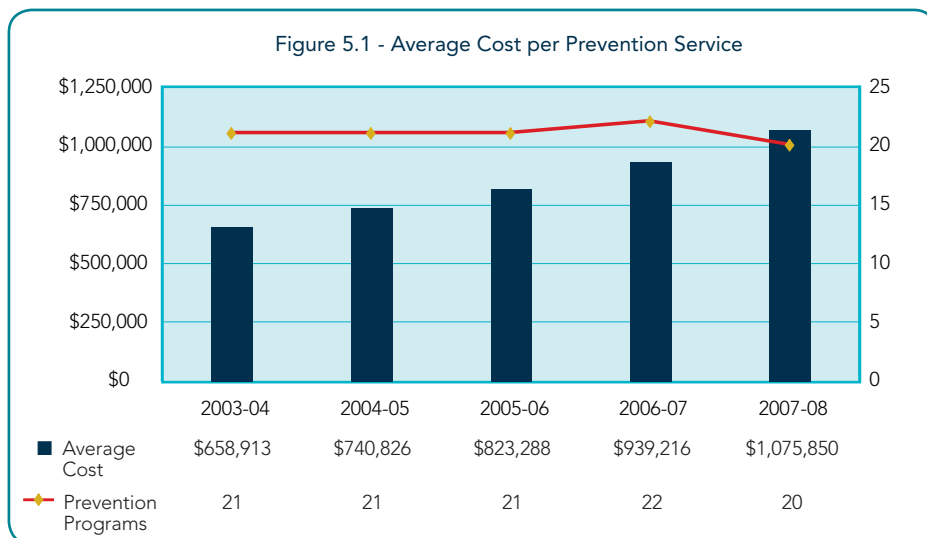
Expenditure allocated to prevention services includes the cost of delivering community awareness campaigns, community education programs and emergency management training through the management of the All West Australian Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program. Development and implementation costs of major initiatives, for example risk analysis, data collection and analysis, research and risk mitigation, are also included.

Average expenditure for prevention services has increased by approximately 14 percent this year. This reflects a rise in general costs and a continued commitment to community engagement and building resilience at the local level.

Historically, this indicator has been calculated by dividing the total prevention cost by the number of community awareness initiatives, education programs and emergency management training activities delivered. This method of calculating efficiency does not consider the complexities of some initiatives for example, environmental management programs, tsunami mitigation planning or Indigenous program development. Clear definitions of what constitutes a prevention program and how these should be measured will be addressed through the outcome based management structure review during 2008-09.

During 2007-08, we delivered 20 annual prevention initiatives.

Figure 5.1 indicates the number of prevention programs and average cost over the past five years.



Average Cost per Operational Personnel Ready to Respond to an Emergency

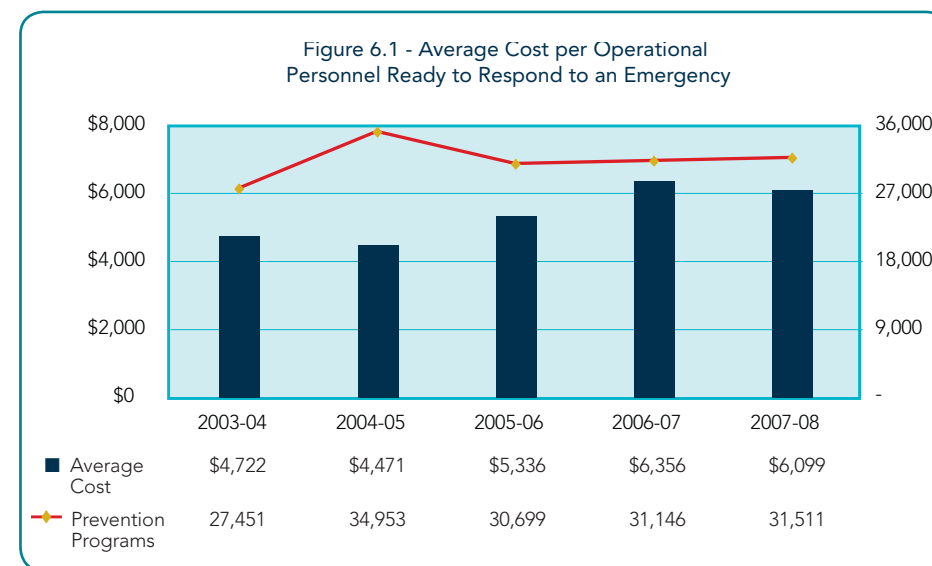
The measure used to determine emergency services efficiency is based on the number of operational personnel ready to respond to an emergency and total expenditure allocated to emergency services.

At the end of 2007-08, the total number of operational staff and volunteers was 31,511. Over the past three years, enhancements to reporting have improved the accuracy of our records. Although volunteer numbers will remain dynamic, continuous improvement to personnel records systems and the ongoing review of volunteer status will enable more precise reporting.

As part of the outcome based management structure review in 2008-09, we will be developing agreed definitions and counting rules for determining 'operational' and support personnel to improve consistency between published reports.

Total expenditure allocated to emergency services includes costs related to general operating costs for operational services, provision of facilities, appliances and operational equipment and preparedness initiatives undertaken by our operational services.

The average cost per operational personnel has decreased slightly in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07.



Note: WAERHS costs are excluded from the calculation for average cost of operational personnel ready to respond to an emergency.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "<http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf>".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2008 Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Authority provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Authority are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Authority's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2008.



COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL

17 September 2008



Auditor General

4th Floor Dumas House 2 Havelock Street West Perth 6005
Western Australia Tel: 08 9222 7500 Fax: 08 9322 5664

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES AND COMMUNICATION

Ministerial Directives [TI 903(12)]

Review of FESA Outcome Based Management Structure

A request to undertake a review of FESA's outcome based management structure was received from the Department of Treasury and Finance in September 2007. The review has commenced and is anticipated to be completed during 2008-09.

Audit of Fire Hydrants in Local Government Areas

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee (CDJSC) report into fire and emergency legislation reviewed hydrant ownership arrangements and made a number of recommendations relating to hydrants. One recommendation (Recommendation 77) was that an audit be undertaken to assess the financial implications associated with transferring ownership in areas where hydrants are managed by local governments. The Minister tasked the FESA to complete the audit and assistance from WALGA was sought to assist in the interface with local government.

The audit will provide an indicative assessment of the condition of existing hydrants in local government managed areas and also the adequacy of coverage. The audit will be completed by the end of July 2008.

Ministerial Communication

In accordance with Section 74 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, we have a communications agreement with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services that outlines communication procedures between the Minister's office and our employees. The agreement ensures that the Minister receives accurate and timely information and advice.

In 2007-08, 674 ministerial items were attended to by our Ministerial Services Coordinator. This compares with 736 items handled in 2006-07.

During the year, the Minister attended 42 FESA functions including openings, launches, commissioning ceremonies, presentations and visits (34 in 2006-07).

OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

PRICING POLICIES OF SERVICES PROVIDED

User Charges and Fees are reviewed annually in accordance with the government's policy on the costing and pricing of government services. Under this policy increases in user charges and fees are generally limited to increases in the consumer price index as advised by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Introduced in 2003-04, the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) provides the majority of our funding to enable effective service delivery in regard to bush and structure fires, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, incidents involving hazardous materials, severe storms, tsunamis, road crash rescues and a range of search and rescue call-outs.

The ESL is a State Government charge which is invoiced and collected by local governments. Funds are remitted directly to FESA. ESL rates and charging parameters are determined annually by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to raise an approved amount of ESL each year. The 2007-08 ESL budget, rates and charging parameters were published in the Government Gazette on 8 June 2007.

CAPITAL WORKS

The 2007-08 Capital Works Program of \$25.9 million comprised new works of \$3.2 million and works in progress of \$22.7 million. However after adjusting for approved carryovers from 2006-07, and revisions agreed to by the Department of Treasury and Finance during the 2008-09 Capital Works Program assessment, the revised program for 2007-08 amounted to \$36.8 million. Actual expenditure on this revised program amounted to \$26.5 million with the balance of \$10.3 million to be carried forward to 2008-09.

The Capital Works Investment Plan is established in conjunction with the application of a resource-to-risk assessment to determine the emergency service infrastructure needs of communities and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority's personnel throughout the state. This process recognises demographic changes and changing community safety issues.

Planning for the construction of a purpose built emergency service headquarters in Cockburn commenced in 2007-08. The new facility will incorporate the state's emergency communication and coordination centre. It will also accommodate administrative and emergency support staff from the existing facilities in Hay Street, Perth and Belmont.

Other major land and building capital works allocations included plans for the state wide commencement and completion of new buildings and upgrades to existing facilities with additional funding approved for the current building and construction industry cost demand pressures. The main regional projects in 2007-08 included volunteer collocations in Dalwallinu, Derby and Esperance, volunteer fire stations in Carnarvon and Merredin, and an emergency service centre in Kununurra.

Major building projects still outstanding are:

Capital Project	Estimated for Completion
Emergency services centre Kununurra	2008-09
Derby volunteer collocation	2008-09
Esperance volunteer collocation	2008-09
VFRS station Carnarvon	2008-09
FESA headquarters relocation	2009-10
Forrestfield Training Centre modifications	2008-09
Perth Fire Station relocation	2008-09

Major building projects completed include:

Capital Project

Dalwallinu volunteer collocation

VFRS station Merredin

VFRS station Kalgoorlie upgrade

Vehicle replacement programs of fire appliances in the metropolitan, regional and rural districts are ongoing in line with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority maintenance and serviceable life replacement strategies.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (WANDRRA)

FESA manages the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) which provide financial assistance to communities whose social, financial and economic wellbeing has been significantly affected by a natural disaster. WANDRRA payments can extend over several financial year periods.

During 2007-08, two events were proclaimed eligible natural disasters under the WANDRRA provisions:

- Boorabbin National Park Bushfire – December 2007-January 2008.
- Chapman Valley Flood – April 2008.

WANDRRA expenditure during 2007-08 by hazard category was as follows:

Hazard	Total
Cyclone (including associated flooding)	\$17,386,779
Flood	\$2,818,606
Bushfire	\$315,513
Storm	\$22,263
Total	\$20,543,161

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Staff Profile

	2007-08 As at 30 June 2008	2006-07 As at 30 June 2007
Full time permanent	1198	1158
Full time contract	32	35
Full time trainees	1	2
Full time apprentices	3	3
Part time permanent	29	24
Part time contract	7	4
On secondment (at FESA)	6	17
On secondment (to other agencies)	4	7
Casuals	2	2
Totals (headcount)	1282	1252
Total	1221	1196

Workplace Management

FESA employees are covered by a number of awards and agreements providing terms and conditions of employment. The FESA Agency Specific Agreement 2008 was successfully registered in March 2008. This agreement covers government officers and provides enhanced flexibility for relevant employees and FESA.

We have successfully implemented a number of initiatives arising from the WA Fire Service Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2006, which covers firefighting ranks, communication systems officers, and fire safety officers and advisors. Negotiations for a replacement agreement have commenced in order to provide a positive outcome for both employees and FESA.

There has been no industrial action in 2007-08 resulting in time lost due to absences.

We are continuing to review, update and create policies to ensure adherence to

compliance requirements and reflect best practice in people management. A dedicated human resources policy officer role has had a very positive impact on policy review and development.

Equity and Diversity

The Workforce Equity and Diversity Plan 2008-2011 has been submitted to the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. The plan includes more appropriate accountabilities and timeframes to achieve strategic outcomes.

We have created a new position of grievance coordinator and finalised appointment to this position. The scope of this position extends to equality and diversity to enable improved service delivery in these areas.

Firefighter Recruitment

An external organisation has been sourced to conduct an overview of our firefighter recruitment process. The scope of the assignment will include reviewing all phases from initial advertising of the role, associated documentation, processes used, testing regime in terms of psychological profiling, physical testing, functional movement testing and any other related aspects.

Selection Standards

In 2007-08, we conducted 155 selection processes that had the potential to attract breach of standard claims.

Four breach claims in respect of the recruitment, selection and appointment standard were lodged.

Number lodged:	4
Breaches found:	0
Multiple breaches:	0
Breaches under review:	2
Material breaches:	0
Non-material breaches:	0

Two of the breach claims lodged were reviewed internally and no breach of standard was found. No further action was requested by one of the claimants. The other claim was forwarded to the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner for further review and was subsequently dismissed. Two further breaches were received in late June and are currently under review.

Staff Development

We have a commitment to the development of our employees and volunteers. Our aim is to build a highly skilled, professional and fair workforce with the ability to adapt to changing business technology and the operating environment.

External study assistance is provided to support staff to continue professional development through a wide range of courses including those offered by industry peak bodies.

Workers Compensation and Personal Accident Claims

Claim numbers have increased in this financial year as a result of a new process. In the past, single medical accounts were not included where no further treatment or time off work was required. All employees and volunteers are now required to submit a claim. We have also increased the awareness of reporting injuries through presentations to career firefighters and volunteer forums which may have also resulted in more claims being submitted.

The estimated cost of claims has also increased this year, which is to be expected with the increased number of claims. The estimated cost of volunteer personal accident claims has increased significantly as a result of four claims. These include a car accident on the way to a competition where three volunteers sustained significant injuries resulting in a total claim estimate of \$190,000 and one claim as a result of a volunteer falling from a tower at an estimated cost of \$94,000.

	2005/2006 (estimated)	2006/2007 (estimated)	2007/2008 (estimated)
Workers compensation costs	554,339	1,042,200	1,117,569
Number of claims - workers compensation	108	144	155
Personal accident costs (volunteers)	1	198,115	419,969
Number of claims – personal accident (volunteers)	3	31	36

FESA BOARD MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

FESA Board Chair

Mr Allan Skinner PSM

Mr Skinner was appointed as the FESA Board Chair on 28 April 2008, replacing the former Chair, Mr Mike Barnett. A retired career state public servant, Mr Skinner is a former Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Land Administration and Chair of the Bush Fires Board. Since his retirement in 2001, he has undertaken several consulting assignments for government. Mr Skinner was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2001 and the Centenary Medal in 2003.

First appointed: 19 February 2003

Term expires: 31 December 2007
– term extended

Deputy Chair and State Emergency Service Consultative Committee Chair

Ms Sandra Gregorini

Ms Gregorini has been a member of a volunteer bush fire brigade for the past 12 years and a volunteer in a number of other community groups. She has worked in property development management for more than 30 years.

First appointed: 19 March 2002

Term expires: 31 December 2007
– term extended

Bush Fire Services Consultative Committee Chair

Mr Bruce Brennan APM

Mr Brennan had a long and distinguished career with the Western Australia Police, rising to the rank of Deputy Commissioner, which he held on his retirement in 2003. Mr Brennan represented the Western Australia Police on many committees, including the State Emergency Management Committee. In 1998, he was awarded the Australian Police Medal.

First appointed: 6 February 2006

Term expires: 6 February 2008 – term extended

Chief Executive Officer (Ex-Officio Member)

Ms Jo Harrison-Ward

Ms Harrison-Ward has a strong background in policy, planning, strategy and change management. Previous roles include a secondment as Director Machinery of Government Implementation at the Department of Local Government and Regional Development and three years as Executive Director of Western Australia Police.

Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer Representative

Mr Eddie van Rijnswood

Mr van Rijnswood has more than a decade's experience as a bush fire brigade volunteer and served for six years as Secretary of the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades WA. He has had extensive involvement with other voluntary community organisations, including the Scout Association of Australia and has worked in the Western Australian and Australian Government public sectors as an electrical engineer for 38 years.

First appointed: 31 December 2001

Term expired: 31 December 2006
– term extended

FESA Employee Representative

Mr Iain Agnew

Mr Agnew was appointed to the FESA Board following his success in a FESA staff election process in late 2003. Mr Agnew has been an employee of FESA since 1979. He is a senior firefighter stationed at Welshpool Fire Station.

First appointed: 25 November 2003

Term expired: 31 December 2006
– term extended

Fire and Rescue Service Consultative Committee Chair

Mrs Penelope Valentine

Mrs Valentine is well known in FESA, where she worked for seven years before leaving in July 2005 to pursue private business interests. Mrs Valentine's professional career spans 35 years commencing in the field of journalism and more recently working in strategic planning and corporate governance with FESA. Mrs Valentine continues to provide corporate communications consultancy services to the public sector and not-for-profit volunteer sectors.

First appointed: 6 February 2006

Term expires: 6 February 2008 – term extended

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Representative

Mr Trevor Jones

Mr Jones has a long association with the volunteer sector of the Fire and Rescue Service in regional Western Australia. He has been a member of the South Kalgoorlie Brigade since 1977, which includes a five year term as Captain. Mr Jones is currently the Goldfields Zone representative for the WA Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association.

First appointed: 6 February 2006

Term expires: 6 February 2008 – term extended

Independent Member

Ms Glenda Teede

Ms Teede is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bidiyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Incorporated, which is the legal entity of the Bidiyadanga Community, a position she has held for the past three years. Ms Teede has worked extensively with Indigenous communities throughout Australia and, in particular, the Kimberley Region of WA.

First appointed: 6 February 2006

Term expires: 6 February 2008 – term extended

State Emergency Service Volunteer Representative

Mr John Capes, OAM

Mr Capes has been involved in the State Emergency Service Volunteer Association in many capacities for the past 20 years. He has also made a considerable contribution as a volunteer. After leaving the Australian Government service, Mr Capes established his own business, which supplies expertise on security and facilitation of emergency management exercises.

First appointed: 2 November 1999

Term expires: 30 June 2007 – term extended

Volunteer Marine Rescue Services Consultative Committee Chair

Mr Ross Monger

Mr Monger was a public servant of 43 years, mostly in State Court administration. On his retirement in 2007, he was the Director of Magistrates Courts WA. Mr Monger also spent 10 years with WorkCover WA as the Director responsible for workers' compensation dispute resolution. He is currently a Justice of the Peace and a lay member of two ethics committees.

First appointed: 28 April 2008

Term expires: 28 April 2010

Marine Rescue Service Volunteer Representative

Mr Eliot Fisher, ESM

Mr Fisher is Commander and a Sea Rescue Skipper of the Bunbury Sea Search and Rescue Group. He is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of York and is currently a consultant working for local governments. He is also the National Commander – Australian Navy Cadets.

First appointed: 28 April 2003

Term expires: 6 February 2008 – term extended

Western Australian Local Government Association Representative

Ms Christine Thompson

Cr Thompson is the Deputy President of the Shire of Murray and Chair of the Shire of Murray Bush Fire Advisory Committee. She represents local government on the Peel Region District Emergency Management Committee. Cr Thompson has a wealth of experience in emergency services, is a current volunteer firefighter and has served on a number of advisory committees and boards. This is her second appointment to the FESA Board, having served as a member from 2000 to 2003.

Appointed: 15 January 2007

Term expires: 14 January 2009

Number of meetings attended in 2007-2008

Eleven Board meetings were held during the year.

The record of attendance of members is as shown in the following table.

Mr Mike Barnett ¹	8
Mr Allan Skinner	11
Ms Jo Harrison-Ward ²	11
Mr Iain Agnew	10
Mr Bruce Brennan	10
Mr John Capes	9
Mr Eliot Fisher	9
Ms Sandra Gregorini	10
Mr Trevor Jones	10
Ms Glenda Teede	8
Ms Christine Thompson	11
Ms Penelope Valentine	11
Mr Eddie van Rijnswood	8
Mr Ross Monger ³	2

¹ Mr Barnett resigned from the FESA Board on 28 April 2008.

² Mr C Hynes attended two meetings as acting Chief Executive Officer in place of Ms Harrison-Ward.

³ Mr Monger was appointed to the FESA Board on 28 April 2008.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Finance and Audit Committee is responsible for the corporate governance requirements. The committee oversees our internal audit process. Our internal auditors conduct ongoing risk audit checks to establish that there is agency compliance, that plans and procedures are in place and the risk assessment process is effective.

During 2007-08, the committee held four meetings. Attendance was as follows:

Glenda Teede – Chair	2
John Capes	4
Eliot Fisher	3
Eddie van Rijnswood	4

During 2007-08, internal audits were conducted in the following areas:

Meetings were also attended by:

- Chief Executive Officer.
- Executive Director Corporate Services.
- Director Business Services.
- Manager Financial Services.
- Sutherland and Rose (Internal auditor)
- Director Attest Audit from the Office of the Auditor General (External auditor).

Audit Area	Audit Objective
SLIP-EM Project	Assess the delivery, outcomes and success of the SLIP-EM program.
Data Integrity of Performance Reports	Ensure that performance reports such as 'response times' accurately reflect the data collected.
OMS	Undertake an application review of the Operational Management System (OMS) and associated processes to ensure integrity of data.
Financial Management	Determine whether the following processes are efficient and effective and comply with the Financial Management Act (2006) and relevant Treasurer's Instructions: Inventory; Revenue; Accounts Receivable; Purchasing; Credit Cards; Accounts Payable; and Fixed Assets.
Segregation of Duties	To determine whether appropriate segregation of duties are present in the finance area, including Smartstream.
LGA Acquittal of ESL Payments	Ensure local government agencies spend Emergency Service Levy payments in accordance with the funding agreement (six LGA's per annum).
Internal Financial Reporting	Ensure financial reports provide sufficient information for management to make appropriate decisions.
Delegation of Authority	Ensure delegation of authority limits are current and communicated to staff effectively.
Information Technology Governance Review	Review of Information Technology governance to ensure that IT plans exist, are current, adequately address the needs of the organisation and policies and procedures adequately address security and control issues.
Payroll and Superannuation	To determine whether payroll and superannuation processes are efficient and effective, comply with the Financial Management Act (2006), relevant Treasurer's Instructions and relevant awards and agreements.
Staff Deployment System	Review the efficiency and effectiveness of the staff deployment system and ensure business continuity procedures have been developed and implemented.
District Offices	High level review of all operational and administrative processes at district level to ensure they are consistent with FESA policy and procedures (one office per annum).
Communication Centre	Review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Communication Centre (000 Call Centre) and ensure that a comprehensive business continuity plan is in place.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUSH FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Members (as at 30 June 2008)

Bruce Brennan	Chair
Craig Hynes	Chief Operations Officer
George Storer	Central West-Carnamah District Operations Advisory Committee (DOAC)
David Gossage	Perth South DOAC
Rodney Eyre	Perth North DOAC
Brian Wood	Goldfields – Midlands (Northam) DOAC
Rodney Daw	Great Southern DOAC
Terry Hunter	South West DOAC
Terry Maher	Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)
Tony Ietto	Western Australian Local Government Association
Paul Maddern	Bush Fire Volunteer Association
Bruce Telfer	Executive Support

The BFS Consultative Committee met four times in 2007-08.

It is with regret that the passing of Mr Peter Capito AFSM is recorded in this report. Peter was a dynamic member and Deputy Chair of the consultative committee. His valuable contribution will be sorely missed.

Committee Report

The Bush Fire Service Consultative Committee had an active and productive year and through the attendance of the Committee members and, with the support of FESA staff, many issues and agenda items were effectively dealt with. Committee members represent key stakeholders and bring forward the views of their district operations advisory committees in the interests of developing a common focus. Members provide input and advice to FESA's Operational Services division on a broad range of issues.

Key issues covered during the year included:

- Status report on the emergency services radio communications system.
- Brigade profiling – operational role requirement.
- Insurance cover for volunteers through local government.
- Movement of unlicensed vehicles.
- BFB volunteer training competencies.
- Volunteers – attracting new people.
- ESL funding and appliance distribution.
- Hazard management adjacent to the Westnet Rail system.
- Bush Fire Forum.
- Emergency Management Legislation – progress and implementation.
- Emergency Services Legislation – status.
- Bushfire emergency exemptions.
- Operations handbook.
- Information relating to operating private equipment at bush fires.
- Community Emergency Management Officers.
- Volunteer firefighter training program – status.
- Community Engagement presentations and updates.
- Matters relating to Western Power infrastructure.
- Matters relating to the Next G mobile network.
- Volunteer vehicles and equipment.
- Prepare, Stay and Defend or Go Early campaigns.
- Harvest and vehicle movement bans implementation by local governments.
- Mulch Stockpile – safety requirements.
- Westplan Bushfire.
- Department of Environment and Conservation burning programs.
- Volunteer and Youth Services – status and cadet programs.
- Working with Children legislation.
- Public Alert systems – media coverage and reports.
- Emergency Services Directory.
- Hazard management on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

- Major bush fire events in the state.
- Liaison with the Bureau of Meteorology and other government agencies.

Presentations were made to the Committee on the following topics:

- Western Australian Emergency Radio Network project.
- Determining of equipment needs through the resource to risk model.
- Capital Grants Scheme assessment process.
- Volunteer vehicles and equipment.
- Emergency management legislation update.
- FESA Volunteers and Youth Services Branch.
- Volunteer training pathways.
- Management of insurance for volunteers.
- Western Power infrastructure management and maintenance.

Members also participated in the following forums with a view to providing input and recommendations on key issues:

- Bush Fire Forum.
- Leaders Forums.
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Fire Control Officer and Captains' Forums.
- Equipment and training committees.

Bruce Brennan – Chair

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Members as at 30 June 2008

Penelope Valentine	Chair
Craig Hynes	Chief Operations Officer
Norm Flynn	Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association
Francis Burgoyne	Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association
Frank Martinelli	United Firefighters Union
Scott Gamble	United Firefighters Union
Chris Mitchell	Local Government representative
Lloyd Bailey	Assistant Chief Operations Officer Metropolitan Fire

The Fire and Rescue Service Consultative Committee met three times in 2007-08. FESA Operational Services staff membership of the committee changed during the year to reflect staff changes in the division. Some members had difficulty in attending meetings due to other commitments. The Chair, Mrs Penny Valentine, was re-appointed during the year by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Committee Report

The Fire and Rescue Service Consultative Committee members represent FESA's Fire and Rescue Service staff and volunteers, as well as providing a link to local government. Endeavours have been made over the year to ensure that the committee provides input on strategic issues and offers advice in relation to policy and planning within the Operations portfolio. An important communication channel is maintained between volunteers and staff in the field and the FESA Board through the FRS Consultative Committee Chair.

In 2007-08, the committee received information and updates on new facilities, appliances and equipment, firefighters' safety and training, asbestos in fire stations, major incidents and coronial inquests, incident reporting, community safety initiatives, youth and volunteer support services and legislative changes.

Members provided comment and advice on a broad range of issues including the FESA Futures project, the status of and membership of the consultative committee, the issuing of identity cards, injury prevention initiatives at volunteer championship events, volunteer funding, community safety programs and restructures within FESA.

Other volunteer related issues and initiatives covered included the roll out of computer installations and security at volunteer stations and of personal items left in vehicles.

FESA presentations included:

- Arrangements for the summer fire season.
- The national '000' emergency call number campaign.
- The volunteer extranet.
- Arson reduction activities.

Penny Valentine – Chair

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Members as at 30 June 2008

Sandra Gregorini	Chair
Charlie Myres	Great Southern District
Peter Newton	South West District
Craig Chadwick	Midwest District
Phillip Petersen	SES Volunteers Association
Craig Chadwick	Mid West District
Vivienne Welch	Kimberley
Andrae Moore	Pilbara District
Sylvia Bristow-Stagg	Midlands District
Doug Simpson	North Metro
Mark Geary	South Metro
Russell Hayes	FESA
Gary Gifford	FESA
Vince Guiffre	FESA

The SES Consultative Committee met four times during the year.

Committee Report

In February long time member of the SES Consultative Committee, Bill Mulroney, resigned from the committee. Bill has been a member for over twenty years and deputy chair of the consultative committee. I personally would like to thank Bill for his dedication, contribution and service to the committee and the SES over the past twenty years. Howard Fiedler also left FESA and the committee in June. On behalf of the members, I would like to thank Howard and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

The consultative committee continues to work towards its vision, which is to represent and promote SES volunteers at a strategic level.

During the year the committee has provided advice and input in a number of areas including:

- SES long service medals and awards.
- State catering plan.
- Grievance Resolution Policy.
- Working uniform changes.
- SES Awards.
- Training and equipment.
- Consultative committee support survey.

Presentations and Reports to Committee:

- National performance indicator project.
- Government Skills Australia/Public Safety Training.
- FESA's support to consultative committees.
- Operational Services reports.
- Sponsorship and business services.
- Major Incident Review Cyclone George update.
- Karijini report and updates.
- Swinburne University map reading CD ROM.
- ESL revisited.
- SES training updates.
- 132 500 launch.
- EM2000.
- Western Australian Emergency Radio Network project update.
- Airbags/confined space, refined space rescue.
- Group call systems.

The consultative committee congratulates all nominees and winners of the SES Recognition Awards.

Peter Keillor Award	Ray Mahony	Bayswater SES Unit
Youth Achievement Award	Samuel Dinnison	Rockingham-Kwinana SES Unit
SES Team Award	Karratha Rescue Team	

Sincere thanks to all members of the consultative committee for your valuable input over the past year.

I would like to thank all SES volunteers and FESA staff who have helped and provided assistance to the committee over the past year.

Sandra Gregorini - Chair

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Members as at 30 June 2008

Ross Monger	Chair
Phil Nicholls	President Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia (VMRWA)
Barry Lapham	VMRWA Vice President
Barry Corish	VMRWA Regional Representative
Peter Aram	VMRWA Regional Representative
Keith Dunlop	VMRWA Regional Representative
Gary Mackwell	VMRWA Regional Representative
Terry Cullen	VMRWA Regional Representative
Roger Martin	VMRWA Regional Representative
Geoff Brierley	VMRWA Regional Representative

FESA VMRS Support

Paul Kimber	FESA VMRS Manager
Jeff Howe	FESA VMRS Manager

The VMRS Consultative Committee met four times in 2007-08.

Committee Report

The committee's membership is closely linked to executive and regional representatives of the Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia (VMRWA). The VMRWA representatives for the year were the same as for the 2006-07 year.

The third VMRWA Annual Sea Rescue Conference, which is supported by FESA, was held in August 2007. The conference provides a valuable opportunity for interaction between the groups, the association executive, FESA and related organisations and industry. During the conference, inaugural 15 year long service leave medals were presented. There were 14 medals and five clasps presented.

The consultative committee considered and endorsed VMRS grant applications totalling \$699,100 to the following Groups:

• Port Walcott	\$132,000	For operational and storage facilities for rescue vessel and equipment.
• East Kimberley	\$203,000	To replace the existing rescue vessel with a 7.9m AirRider.
• Naturaliste	\$110,000	For the construction of an AirRider 9.5m rescue vessel.
• Derby	\$110,000	For operational and storage facilities for rescue vessel and equipment.
• Jurien Bay	\$ 24,200	To provide a towing vehicle and jinker.
• Bunbury	\$ 9,900	For improvements to the storage facilities.
• VMRWA	\$110,000	Towards the construction of the replacement 7.3m NAIAD as the standby rescue vessel.

The Lotterywest Emergency Services Fund provided a further \$350,000 by way of grants in respect to applications from the association and groups around the coast.

During the year, the committee discussed and provided advice and input in a number of areas including:

- The ongoing roll out of the Very High Frequency marine repeater network.
- The VMRS coordination unit's planning process following the strategic workshop convened in Bunbury 19-20 September 2007. The VMRS consultative committee was given the opportunity to comment on the direction and impact of the following:
 - VMRS Division Plan 2007 – 2010.
 - VMRS Futures Plan.
 - VMRS Strategic Plan.
- VMRS Cadet Program – to provide Groups with a package for the implementation and management of cadets.
- The ongoing development of the resource management system for the registration of VMRS volunteers. A significant amount of work has been put into this by Sharyn Cable.
- Age of volunteers on boats for insurance purposes.
- The need for uniforms for VMRS volunteers.

The committee is particularly pleased Mark Platt has been appointed to the VMRS team as training and development officer. Mark was a police officer for 21 years, including service in regional areas and 13 years in the Water Police. When he left the Water Police, Mark was a Sergeant Search and Rescue Coordinator. Mark's experience as a presenter at national level in search and rescue together with 29 years personal involvement with surf lifesaving will be invaluable to VMRS groups in the future.

The committee appreciates the continued support and commitment of Paul Kimber and Jeff Howe, FESA VMRS managers and the administrative support of other officers throughout the year.

I would like to thank Allan Skinner, who was Chair of the committee until April 2008, for his advice and assistance since my appointment.

Ross Monger - Chair

CONTRACTS WITH SENIOR OFFICERS

At the date of reporting, other than normal contracts of employment of service, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with FESA.

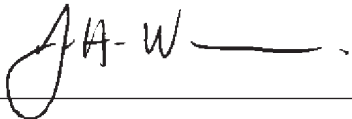
INDEMNITY INSURANCE

An insurance policy is taken out to indemnify members of the FESA Board, directors and officers against any liability incurred under sections 13 or 14 of the *Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Act 1996*.

The amount of the insurance premium paid for 2007-08 was \$21,250.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT ACT SECTION 31(1)

1. In the administration of FESA during 2007-08, I have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and our Code of Conduct.
2. I have established procedures designed to ensure such compliance and conducted appropriate internal assessments to satisfy myself that the statement made in point one above is correct.
3. The applications made for breach of standards review and the corresponding outcomes for the reporting period are:
 - Number lodged: four.
 - Number of breaches found: nil.
 - Number of multiple breaches: nil.
 - Number still under review: two.



J Harrison-Ward

Chief Executive Officer

4 September 2008

ADVERTISING

(Electoral Act 1907, S175ZE)

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, FESA incurred the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising:

1. Total expenditure for 2007-08 was \$246,693.
2. Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

Advertising Agencies	\$14,818	Acorn Design	\$4,525
		Advance Press Pty Ltd	\$685
		Alternative Advertising and Marketing	\$1,446
		C & D Taaffe and Associates	\$449
		Chambers and Rowe Marketing	\$5,604
		Colourbox Digital Pty Ltd	\$692
		Display Masters	\$140
		Peter Lawton Graphic Design	\$210
		Sanbrook Brands Pty Ltd	\$1,067
Market Research Organisations	\$32,252	Paterson Market Research	\$6,370
		TNS Social Research	\$25,882
Polling Organisations	\$0		
Direct Mail Organisations	\$8,867	Northside Logistics and Finishers	\$2,506
		Zipform Pty Ltd	\$6,361
Media Advertising Organisations		Albany Advertiser	\$1,042
		The Australian Firefighter	\$495
		Brittel Enterprises Pty Ltd	\$4,986
		Broome Advertiser	\$451
		CINE Ads Australia	\$400
		Fire Protection Association Australia	\$1,195
		Marketforce Pty Ltd	\$55,729
		Media Decisions	\$107,997
		Midland and Kalamunda Echo	\$460
		Newman Mail Pty Ltd	\$320
		Rural Press Regional Media Pty Ltd	\$279
		Sensis Pty Ltd	\$5,228
		State Law Publisher	\$52
		Sunday Times	\$9,144
		Times Publications	\$1,995
		West Australian Newspaper Pty Ltd	\$183
		West Coast Radio Pty Ltd	\$800

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN OUTCOMES

(Disability Services Act 1993, S29)

We recognise that people with disabilities may be especially vulnerable to, and have individual requirements, in order to be able deal with the impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies.

We have established a Disability Access Committee to guide and monitor our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) and improvement initiatives. The committee has commenced a review and update of our DAIP to improve our outcomes in relation to:

- Ensuring that people with disabilities, their families and carers can fully access the range of FESA services and facilities.
- Consulting with people with disabilities, their families and carers and, where required, disability organisations, to ensure that barriers to access and inclusion and special needs in terms of coping with emergencies are recognised and addressed appropriately.
- Requiring our agents and contractors to work towards the desired access and inclusion outcomes in the DAIP.
- Working in partnership with community groups and other public authorities to include people with disabilities through improved access to its information, services and facilities.

We will review our DAIP annually and include timeframes for implementing longer term improvements.

The following initiatives will be implemented in 2008-09:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, a public authority:
 - Develop a checklist for project plans, resource development, marketing etc to ensure that DAIP requirements are addressed.
 - Ensure that staff, volunteers, agents and contractors are aware of the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993*.
 - Improve opportunities for people with disabilities to provide comment on access to services.
 - Ensure that events are organised so they are accessible to people with disabilities.

2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of a public authority:
 - Ensure that our capital works program addresses access to buildings and facilities for people with disabilities.
 - Address disabled parking requirements for existing and new facilities.
3. People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it:
 - Improve staff and volunteer awareness of accessible information needs and how to provide information in a range of formats.
 - Develop an easy to use checklist to facilitate uptake of DAIP initiatives by staff and volunteers providing information.
 - Ensure that disability access issues are addressed through the review of on line services in order to deliver improvements in information accessibility.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of a public authority as other people receive from staff of that public authority:
 - Develop and deliver basic training to all FESA staff.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to a public authority:
 - Ensure that current grievance mechanisms are accessible for people with disabilities.
 - Improve staff and volunteer knowledge so they can facilitate the receipt of complaints from people with a disability.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by a public authority:
 - Improve staff and volunteer awareness of the need to actively seek input and participation from people with disabilities.
 - Improve access for people with disabilities to the established consultative processes.
 - Build institutional frameworks that ensure FESA seeks a broad range of views on disability and access issues from the community when developing policies and other decision making processes.

RECORD KEEPING PLANS

State Records Act 2000, S61, and State Records Commission Standards, Standard 2, Principle 6)

The effectiveness of our record keeping systems was last evaluated in March 2007 through an internal audit. The audit report confirmed the efficiency and effectiveness of the current system.

A census of FESA House records was completed in April 2008.

Our retention and disposal schedule was amended to address the record keeping requirements for fire safety building plans. This was completed and approved by the State Records Advisory Committee in April 2008 and endorsed by the State Records Commission in May 2008. The schedule is currently being incorporated into FESA's records management system.

The review of our Mail Management Policy was completed in June 2008. Policies due for review in 2008-09 are:

- Records Management.
- Email – Acceptable Usage.
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection.

Our induction process addresses employee roles and responsibilities in regard to records management and is supplemented by awareness training. Records management training will be revised during 2008-09 to ensure compliance with the *State Records Act 2000*. This will include online training for records management and also TRIM.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Statistical Return for the period 2006-07 was submitted to the Information Commissioner as prescribed in Section 111 of the *Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 1992*.

A total of 63 valid applications were received this year. This is a reduction of 16 applications from the previous year, with 65 percent of the total applications being received between July and December 2007.

Most applications sought access to non-personal information in relation to domestic and commercial structure fires throughout the State.

Freedom of Information Applications 2007-08

Applications withdrawn	2
Applications transferred in full to another agency	1
Full access granted	7
Edited access granted	51
Applications held over	2
Total applications received	63

Of the 63 applications received, two were subsequently withdrawn. Edited access was applied to 51 applications and Exemption Clause 3(1), enabling personal information to be withheld, was applied to 82 percent of edited applications.

One internal review was received that related to the Firefighter Recruitment process and resulted in the original decision being amended.

The average processing time for applications during 2007-08 was 23 days, which is consistent with 2006-07.

FESA's Information Statement, which is required under Part 5 – Publication of Information about Agencies, of the *FOI Act*, is available through our website.

CORRUPTION PREVENTION

(Premier's Circular 2005/02: Corruption Prevention)

We have continued to promote awareness of corruption and misconduct issues through workplace training for staff and volunteers.

FESA's values underpin ethical conduct throughout the organisation. These values are detailed in pamphlets entitled Living our Values and Leadership the FESA Way, which are provided to new employees and are available to all staff.

A presentation package relating to the new WA Code of Ethics that came into effect in February 2008 is being developed and will be rolled out during 2007-08.

Our Professional Standards directorate is dedicated to improving service delivery standards and supporting similar aims within our volunteer organisations. The directorate specifically focuses on:

- Helping to create an environment where high standards of conduct and integrity are commonplace.
- Strengthening organisational resistance to misconduct and corruption.

During 2007-08, 14 matters were reported to the Corruption and Crime Commission, compared to seven in 2006-07 and 18 in 2006-06.

No public interest disclosures were received during 2007-08.

SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY

(Premier's Circular 2005/07: Implementation of the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality)

FESA is not represented on the Strategic Management Council. However, we are committed to improving substantive equality across prevention and emergency services. Current initiatives include:

- Development of an information database on Indigenous and special needs clients and their locations.
- Development of the state resourcing strategy for remote Indigenous communities.
- Progression of a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) project in partnership with EMA, ethnic community peak bodies and Murdoch University.
- Delivery of Indigenous cross-cultural awareness sessions to increase staff knowledge and understanding of Indigenous people, culture, history and contemporary issues. These sessions also address communication processes and protocols, as well as values and how they influence behaviour.

We have also commenced development of a Reconciliation Action Plan. Our commitment to reconciliation can be accessed through our website. The plan will formalise our approach to reconciliation and substantive equality and promote the existing initiatives already in place for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders. FESA also aims to nurture reconciliation awareness and establish appropriate processes for sustainable practices and programs which support the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders.

SUSTAINABILITY

(Premier's Circular 2004.14: Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies)

Our planning framework is a tiered system that supports whole of government goals and cascades from our newly developed futures strategy, *FESA 2023 Shaping Our Future*, through to individual performance agreements. FESA 2023 embraces the three objectives in the Sustainability Code of Practice and will guide our strategic direction for the next 15 years. The strategy is underpinned by specific plans related to people, technology, assets and operations, which will be developed in accordance with sustainability principles.

Our achievements in sustainability procurement were recognised through two Treasurer's awards in November 2007.

The first award received was in recognition for Agency Specific Contracting – Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) project. The objective of the WAERN initiative is to develop a single radio network which delivers interoperability within FESA and with other emergency service organisations including local government through the development of a dual band radio.

The second award was received in recognition of Regional Buying - Fire Fighting Appliances – Regional Development. This initiative was to develop local industry in the Mid West with the aim of increasing FESA's supplier base of appliance manufacturers.

Other significant achievements include the development of guidelines to reduce environmental impacts of wildfires in the Kimberley and the tsunami modelling in conjunction with Geoscience Australia. Both of these projects won National Australian Safer Community Awards in 2007-08. Further details are provided in the Agency Performance section of this report.

Priority areas for in 2008-09 include:

- Continued consultation and community engagement to ensure that community and environmental priorities and values are considered and incorporated into long term planning.
- Development of a flexible service delivery model that can adapt to the changing needs of the community.
- Development of an information and communications technology strategic plan.
- Development of a strategic human resource management framework.
- Development of programs and strategies to support volunteer sustainability.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

(Premier's Circular 2007/12: Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector)

FESA's 'Statement of Commitment to Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare' has been established as a foundation to the ongoing development of FESA's occupational safety and health (OSH) management system.

FESA has developed an injury management process to comply with the requirements of the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981. This was reviewed by Riskcover in February 2008 and found to comply with requirements under the legislation. Some suggestions were forthcoming from the review and are being implemented. This includes an increase in the number of employee OSH representatives.

The formal mechanism for reporting OSH matters is through OSH committees. Under the new process, regional committees will report to a central committee that includes both career and volunteer representatives.

2007-08 PERFORMANCE RESULTS

The following formulae were used to calculate performance results.

Lost time injury/diseases incidence rate

Number of lost time injuries/diseases incidence rate is the number of lost time injuries/diseases where one day/shift or more was lost in the financial year, per 100 employees.

Lost time injury (LTI) severity rate

This is a measure of the effectiveness of injury management and is calculated by the following formula:

Number of severe injuries
(actual or estimated 60 days /shifts or more lost from work) x 100

Number of lost time injuries

Indicator	Target 2007-08	2007-08	2006-07
Number of fatalities	Zero (0)	0	0
Lost time injury/diseases incidence rate	5.86 (10% reduction on previous year)	8.15	6.51
Lost time injury severity rate	\$2.30% (10% improvement on previous year)	4.9%	2.56%

The above results are calculated on estimated data provided by Riskcover and relate to workers' compensation claims only.

Volunteer injuries are monitored in terms of total personal accident claims during the reporting period and are not included in the indicators above.

During 2007-08, 102 lost time injury claims were received, of which five resulted in (or were estimated to result in) 60 days or more lost time. This compares to a total of 78 claims in 2006-07 of which two were significant. The results in percentage terms should be considered in context of the small difference in claims from year to year.

Riskcover estimates the potential severity of claims when they are received and accuracy of these estimates will impact the results for severity rates.

FESA is committed to assisting our people who are injured to return to work in the quickest clinically appropriate time and in a safe supportive environment that enables them to achieve the best possible recovery.

The restructure of the Health Safety and Welfare Branch, including increased staffing, has been a key step in the process of developing a new comprehensive OSH management system which will provide the assurance of a safer workplace for all FESA personnel.