

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question On Notice

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

623. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Emergency Services

- (1) I refer to the Minister's visit to Esperance on 11 March 2022, and I ask will the Minister please table the Minister's diary schedule for the day including any briefing materials, notes or correspondence received relating to the travel.?
- (2) On what date was the Minister's travel to Esperance confirmed?
- (3) How did the Minister travel to Esperance?
- (4) Who accompanied the Minister in his travel to Esperance?
- (5) With respect to the event where the Minister and other Labor backbenchers participated in a handover of emergency service vehicles:
- (a) when was this event first communicated to invitees;
 - (b) who arranged the event;
 - (c) who was invited to the event;
 - (d) who was the decision maker in relation to the events planning and invitation list; and
 - (e) on what date and time were the following local Members of Parliament invited to the event as is the custom and practice for such events:
 - (i) Hon Shelley Payne MLC;
 - (ii) Hon Sandra Carr MLC;
 - (iii) Hon Darren West MLC;
 - (iv) Hon Martin Aldridge MLC;
 - (v) Hon Colin de Grussa MLC;
 - (vi) Hon Steve Martin MLC; and
 - (vii) Peter Rundle MLA?
- (6) Did the Minister notify local Members of Parliament of his travel to the Agricultural Region as is the custom and practice for such official visits?
- (7) If yes to (6), will the Minister please provide the date and time of each notification?

Answer

- (1) See tabled paper no. #
- (2) 4th March 2022
- (3) Government plane
- (4) FES Commissioner
Policy Adviser
Senior Media Adviser
- (5) (a) On 9 March 2022 by the Shire of Esperance.
(b) Shire of Esperance in consultation with DFES.

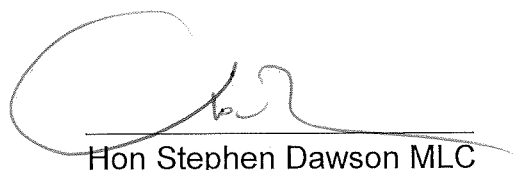
(c)

- Traditional Custodians - Tjaltjraak – Gale Reynolds-Adamson
- Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region
- Mr Shayne Flannagan, representing National Members Hon Colin De Grussa MLC and Mr Peter Rundle MLA
- Mr Rick Wilson MP
- Shire of Esperance President, Cr Ian Mickel
- Shire of Esperance Deputy President, Cr Ron Chambers
- Shire of Esperance Chief Executive Officer, Mr Shane Burge
- Volunteers from Bushfire Brigades, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue

(d) Shire of Esperance in consultation with DFES.

- (e)
- (i) Afternoon of 9 March 2022 (phone call by Shire of Esperance)
 - (ii) – (iv) Not applicable
 - (v) Afternoon of 9 March 2022 (phone call by Shire of Esperance)
 - (vi) Not applicable
 - (vii) Afternoon of 9 March 2022 (phone call by Shire of Esperance)

(6) – (7) The Shire of Esperance led communication with invited guests.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;
INNOVATION AND ICT; MEDICAL RESEARCH; VOLUNTEERING**

11

Friday

March

2022

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Minister for Emergency Services;
Innovation and ICT; Medical Research;
Volunteering
Daily Itinerary

March 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

7:30 AM Driver to collect Minister from residence and depart for Dumas House
-8:00 AM

8:00 AM **State Emergency Management Committee Meeting**
-10:00 AM *Yonga Meeting room - Dumas House*
Office Rep: Chief of Staff

12:00 PM Driver to collect Minister from Dumas House and depart for Revesco
-12:30 PM Aviation

1:00 PM **Flight - Perth to Esperance - Government Jet**
-2:00 PM **Met by:** DFES District Officer
Attendees: FES Commissioner
Office Reps: Senior Media Adviser and Policy Adviser

- Itinerary enclosed

2:30 PM **Media Event - Minister and Commissioner to attend Fleet Launch**
-3:00 PM *Esperance Foreshore – James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance*
Contact for the day: DFES District Officer
Attendees: FES Commissioner, DFES Media Adviser, DFES Digital Media Officer
Office Reps: Senior Media Adviser and Policy Adviser

- Briefing notes enclosed
- Itinerary enclosed

3:00 PM **Fleet Handover Event and meet with volunteers and local government representatives**
-4:00 PM *Esperance Foreshore – James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance*
Attendees: FES Commissioner, DFES Media Adviser, DFES Digital Media Officer
Office Reps: Senior Media Adviser and Policy Adviser

- Speech to be provided by DFES

4:00 PM **Travel to Esperance Airport**
-4:30 PM **Attendees:** FES Commissioner, DFES Media Adviser, DFES Digital Media Officer
Office Reps: Senior Media Adviser and Policy Adviser

4:30 PM **Flight - Esperance to Perth - Government Jet**
-5:30 PM **Attendees:** FES Commissioner, DFES Media Adviser, DFES Digital Media Officer
Office Reps: Senior Media Adviser and Policy Adviser

5:30 PM Driver to collect Minister Dawson from Revesco Aviation and depart for
-5:50 PM residence.

Minister Visit to Esperance

Friday 11 March 2022

Attendees:

- Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services
- FES Commissioner
- Policy Adviser
- Senior Media Adviser
- DFES Media Adviser
- DFES Digital Media Officer

DAY 1 – Friday 11 March 2022	
Esperance	
1.00 – 2.00pm	Travel to Esperance (Govt Jet)
2.00 – 2.30pm	Pick up from Esperance Airport and travel to Fleet Media Event <i>Met by DFES District Officer</i>
2.30 – 3.00pm	Minister and Commissioner to attend Fleet Media Event <i>Contact: DFES District Officer</i> <i>Address: Esperance Foreshore – James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance</i>
3.00 – 4.00pm	Minister and Commissioner to attend Fleet Handover Event <i>Contact: DFES District Officer</i> <i>Address: Esperance Foreshore – James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance</i>
4.00 – 4.30pm	Travel to Esperance Airport
4.30 – 5.30pm	Travel to Perth (Govt Jet)



MINISTER'S EVENT COVER PAGE

Event:	Esperance Fleet Handover Visit	
Location:	Esperance Foreshore James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance	
Time and date:	2.30 pm Friday 11 March 2022	
Departure location:	For office use only	
Estimated travel time:	For office use only	
Minister/s attending:	Minister for Emergency Services Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	
Ministerial staff contact/s:	For office use only	
Staff attending:	For office use only	
Contact on the day:	DFES District Officer	
Audience:	Approximately 50 people, consisting of DFES staff, Shire of Esperance representatives and volunteers from Bushfire Brigades, State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue	
Dress:	Formal	
Met by:	DFES District Officer at Esperance Airport	
Minister's role:	Participation in the media event Speech, officially handover keys for appliances and presentation of service medals to volunteers at the handover event	
Speech duration:	3 minutes	
Minister introduced by:	Master of Ceremonies - Shire of Esperance Vice President Cr Ron Chambers	
Order of Proceedings:	Time	Detail - Please provide as much detail as possible
	2.00pm	Pick up from Esperance Airport and travel to Fleet Launch - Media Event
	2.30pm	Minister and Commissioner to attend Fleet Media Event <i>Details provided separately</i>
	3.00pm	Official Fleet Handover Event Master of Ceremonies - Shire of Esperance Vice President Cr Ron Chambers delivers welcome address
	3.02pm	Welcome to Country
	3.12pm	Hon Stephen Dawson MLC – Minister for Emergency Services <i>Minister Dawson delivers speech</i>
	3.15pm	Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner <i>FES Commissioner delivers speech</i>

	3.18pm	Cr Ian Mickel – Shire of Esperance President <i>Cr Mickel delivers speech</i>
	3.21pm	Mr Phil Longmire – Shire of Esperance Chief Bush Fire Control Officer <i>Mr Longmire delivers speech</i>
	3.24pm	Fleet Presentations Minister Dawson to present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaumont 4.4 to Cr Ian Mickel, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Phil Longmire and Beaumont Brigade Captain Lyndon Mickel • Pink Lake 4.4 to Cr Ian Mickel, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Phil Longmire and Pink Lake Captain Nigel Ratcliffe • Esperance SES General Rescue Utility to Cr Ian Mickel and Esperance Deputy Local Manager Glenn Churchland Commissioner to present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Light Tanker Vehicles to Cr Ian Mickel and Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Phil Longmire
	3.37pm	Medal Presentations Minister Dawson and Commissioner to present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Carmody with 40 Year Bush Fire Service Medal • Ashley Stewart with 30 Year Bush Fire Service Medal • Melissa Ammon with National Medal and 15 Year Bush Fire Service Medal <i>Further details on medal recipients are attached.</i>
	3.45pm	Event concludes. Light refreshments served
	4.00pm	Travel to Esperance Airport
Drop off location:	Esperance Foreshore James Street Precinct, The Esplanade, Esperance	
Parking location:	Not applicable (DFES supplying transport)	
Logistics:	Nil	
Acknowledgements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Custodians - Tjaltjraak – Gale Reynolds-Adamson • Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region • Mr Shayne Flannagan, representing National Members Hon Colin De Grussa MLC and Mr Peter Rundle MLA • Shire of Esperance President, Cr Ian Mickel • Shire of Esperance Deputy President, Cr Ron Chambers • Shire of Esperance Chief Executive Officer, Mr Shane Burge • Volunteers from Bushfire Brigades, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue (see list attached) 	
Other VIPs attending:	Nil	
Seating arrangements:	Nil	

Further Information	Nil
Local Information (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electorate / Sitting MP/ Federal MP/ Notifications– to be completed by Advancer

Volunteer Attendance List

- Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Captain Rory Close
- Esperance State Emergency Service Deputy Manager and Marine Rescue Esperance Vice Commander Glenn Churchlands

Shire of Esperance Bushfire Brigades	
Cascade	Capt Tom Carmody
Condingup	DCBFCO/Capt Adrian Perks
Coomalbidgup	Capt Steve Lloyd
Dalyup	Capt Peter Luberda
Gibson	Lieut Cody Govans
Howick	Delegate unknown
Mt Beaumont	Capt Lyndon Mickel
Mt Merivale	Capt Bruce King
Neridup	Capt Ashley Reichstein
Pink Lake	Capt Nigel Ratcliffe
Quarry Road	Capt Laurie Palmer
Salmon Gums	Delegate unknown
Scaddan	Capt Dave Vandenberghe
Six Mile Hill	Delegate - Sean Brennan
Southern Mallee	Capt Michael Ietto
Emergency Support Unit (ICV)	Capt Peter Harkness

Medal Recipient Information

WILL CARMODY 40-YEAR BUSH FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

- Will Carmody joined the Cascade Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade within the Shire of Esperance in 1980.
- Will was Captain of the Brigade for 14 years.
- Will has been a Fire Control Officer since 2008 and in May 2021, was elected as the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.
- Will played an integral role in combatting many fires within the Shire including the 2015 Esperance bushfire and the 2019 Lake Hope bushfire.
- Will's experience and advice is held in a high regard among DFES and the BFB network.
- In 2017 Will won the Murray Lang Bush Fire Medal for his dedicated service in community engagement activities and the development of the Seasonal Workers training package. The package provides fire awareness training to seasonal workers prior to assisting farmers with harvest. Will continues to deliver the Seasonal Worker package prior to harvest
- Will is instrumental in UCL mitigation works within the northwest district of the Shire.

ASHLEY STEWART 30-YEAR BUSH FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

- Ashley Stewart joined the Neridup Bush Fire Brigade within the Shire of Esperance in 1990.
- Ash was Captain of the Brigade for 14 years.
- Ash has been a Fire Control Officer since 2001 and in October 2009, was elected as the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Ash then became the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer in 2016 until he stood down in May 2021.
- During Ash's tenure as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, he experienced a horrid run of bush fire seasons extending from 2017 to 2020. Ash's dedication to the role saw him attend these fires as the Incident Controller for weeks at a time.
- Ash is now enjoying his time as a regular fire fighter with the Neridup BFB.

MELISSA AMMON NATIONAL MEDAL & 15-YEAR BUSH FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

- Melissa Ammon joined the Esperance Emergency Support Unit (Incident Control Vehicle) in May 2003 and also holds a non-operational role with the Quarry Road Bushfire Brigade.
- Mel was also a member of the Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service from 2003 until she stood down in 2014.
- Mel was the Esperance Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) from 2011 to 2014.
- Mel is currently employed by the Shire of Esperance as the Manager of Community Support.
- In the event of an emergency, you will find Mel helping in whatever capacity is needed, ranging from public information to logistics officer to delivering meals to the troops on the fire ground.

PORTFOLIO: DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)
ISSUE: DELIVERY OF APPLIANCE – PINK LAKE BFB TATRA 4.4 BROADACRE

BACKGROUND:

- The Pink Lake Bushfire Brigade (BFB) was established in 1992 as a farmer response brigade, starting with an old donated Acco truck along with a water tank and petrol pump.
- The Brigade has 37 registered volunteers.
- The Pink Lake BFB fleet includes a Light Tanker, a 2.4 Urban appliance and a 3.4 Urban appliance.
- Since 1 July 2021, Pink Lake BFB has attended 6 incidents, and have also attended the 2013/14 Pink Lake Reserve Fire which burnt 550Ha, 2017/18 Borefields Fire which burnt 300Ha and 2021/22 Mississippi Bend Fire which burnt approximately 900Ha.
- The Pink Lake BFB has been heavily involved with the Esperance Bushfire Mobility Working Group, trialling the Super Single Tyres, Central Tyre Inflation System and aftermarket Diesel Particulate Diffuser initiatives. The feedback received from these trials has aided the design of the new DFES fleet.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The Pink Lake BFB will be the first brigade to officially receive a Dual Cab Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance in Western Australia.
- The Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance replaces the 17 year old Isuzu 2.4 Urban appliance.
- The Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance provides the Pink Lake BFB an additional 2,000lt of water capacity, and greater capability to operate/traverse the coastal sand terrain.
- \$529,000 of Emergency Services Levy funding was allocated to the Pink Lake BFB 4.4 Broadacre appliance.
- On Friday 11 March 2022, a media event will take place to officially deliver the Pink Lake Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance to the Shire President Cr Ian Mickel, Chief Bushfire Control Officer Mr Phil Longmire and Pink Lake BFB Captain Mr Nigel Ratcliffe.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION

The Minister notes the above information.

NOTED

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
FES COMMISSIONER

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

10 March 2022

Date: / /

PORTFOLIO: DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)
ISSUE: DELIVERY OF APPLIANCE – MT BEAUMONT BFB TATRA 4.4 BROADACRE

BACKGROUND:

- The Mt Beaumont Bushfire Brigade (BFB) was established in 1977 as a farmer response brigade. The first official meeting was held at the Travelers Inn hotel.
- The Brigade has 62 registered volunteers.
- The Mt Beaumont BFB fleet includes a 2.4 Rural appliance and a 4.4 Broadacre appliance.
- Since 1 July 2021, Mt Beaumont BFB has attended 3 incidents, and also attended the significant bushfires at Mickel Farm in 2017/18 and Buraminya in 2018/19.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Mt Beaumont BFB is the first brigade to officially receive a Single Cab Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance within Western Australia.
- The Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance replaces the 22 year old Isuzu 2.4 Rural appliance.
- The Tatra 4.4 Broadacre appliance provides the Mt Beaumont BFB an additional 2,000lt of water capacity, and greater capability to operate/traverse deep ripped farm land .
- \$523,000 of Emergency Services Levy funding was allocated to the Mt Beaumont BFB 4.4 Broadacre appliance.
- On Friday 11 March 2022, a media event will take place to officially deliver the Mt Beaumont 4.4 Broadacre appliance to the Shire President Cr Ian Mickel, Chief Bushfire Control Officer Mr Phil Longmire and Mt Beaumont BFB Captain Mr Lyndon Mickel.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION

The Minister notes the above information.

NOTED

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER

10 March 2022

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Date: / /

PORTFOLIO: DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)
ISSUE: DELIVERY OF APPLIANCE – ESPERANCE SES GENERAL RESCUE UTILITY – RURAL/REMOTE

BACKGROUND:

- The Esperance State Emergency Service (SES) was established in February 1973 and has a current membership of 32 active volunteers.
- Marine Rescue (MR) Esperance was created from Esperance SES members as they were often called to assist in the marine environment.
- Esperance SES and MR Esperance are co-located, and the combined SES/Marine Rescue fleet includes:
 - Toyota Landcruiser 5 Seat Personnel Carrier 4x4
 - Isuzu General Rescue Utility - Rural/Remote
 - Polaris ATV and Trailer (on behalf of the Esperance Local Emergency Management Committee)
 - Storm Damage Trailer
 - Vertical Rescue Trailer
 - Logistics Trailer
 - Isuzu 4x4 Truck
 - 8.5mtr Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB)
 - 12.5mtr RHIB, which is currently undergoing a refit in Albany.
- Since 1 July 2021, Esperance SES has attended 12 incidents.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Esperance SES is the first SES unit to officially receive the General Rescue Utility (GRU) – Rural/Remote in Western Australia.
- The GRU replaces an 18-year-old Toyota Landcruiser 100 Series Personnel Carrier and provides the Esperance SES with the capability to operate/traverse the coastal sand terrain and provides the ability to load to accommodate for different tasks.
- \$132,000 of Emergency Services Levy funding was allocated for the Esperance SES GRU.
- On Friday 11 March 2022, a media event will take place to officially deliver the GRU to the Shire President Cr Ian Mickel and Esperance SES Deputy Local Manager / MR Vice Commander Glenn Churchland.

MATTERS THAT MAY BE RAISED:

- The GRU was delivered without red and blue emergency beacons which are an additional specification requirement for line and vertical rescue incidents. This is currently being rectified and the beacons will be fitted in April 2022.
- In 2021/2022, the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) Capital Grants Committee approved an additional 4x4 General Rescue Truck with the build anticipated to commence in June 2022.
- DFES Great Southern Region is working with the Esperance SES to develop a business case in support of an LGGS application for a Rural/Remote bus to transport larger numbers of volunteers to incidents. This application will be submitted for the 2022/2023 LGGS Capital Grants application process for the Committee's review.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Minister notes the above information.

NOTED

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER

DARREN KLEMM AFSM

COMMISSIONER

10 March 2022

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Date: / /

PORTFOLIO: DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)
ISSUE: DELIVERY OF FOUR LIGHT TANKERS TO THE SHIRE OF
ESPERANCE

BACKGROUND:

- The Coroner's Inquest into the 2015 Esperance Bushfires resulted in twelve Recommendations, including Recommendation 5:
I recommend that DFES fund an additional two light tanker appliances and one heavy duty appliance to be used by the Esperance volunteer Bushfire Brigades, at their discretion. The appliances should be provided on a permanent basis, as the Brigades need to be able to learn how to use the appliances and train on them, and the fire seasons are becoming extended and unpredictable.
- On 6 November 2020, in acknowledgement and response of Recommendation 5, the FES Commissioner announced that DFES would supply four additional Light Tankers (LTs) to the Shire of Esperance (Shire). The LTs were scheduled into the DFES 2021 appliance build program.
- As an interim measure, the FES Commissioner arranged for two LTs and one 3.4 Tanker to be delivered to Esperance ahead of the 2021/22 High Threat Period. The interim vehicles were supplied from the DFES current fleet and remained in the Shire until the four LTs were delivered.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The four LT appliances have been delivered to Esperance and have been named Esperance LT1, LT2, LT3 and LT4. The LT appliances have not been allocated specific brigade names to reinforce they are a Shire-wide appliance that can be used by any brigade based on risk and operational incident requirements.
- The Shire has indicated that initial disbursement of the LTs will be as follows:
 - Quarry Road Bushfire Brigade
 - Coomalbidgup Bushfire Brigade
 - Scaddan Bushfire Brigade
 - Condingup Bushfire Brigade
- \$940,000 of Emergency Services Levy funding was allocated to the Shire for the four LTs.
- On Friday 11 March 2022, a media event will take place to officially deliver the LTs to the Shire President Cr Ian Mickel and Shire Chief Executive Officer Mr Shane Burge.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Minister acknowledges the Commissioner's pledge of four LTs and joins the Commissioner with official delivery of the LTs to the Shire.

NOTED

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER
10 March 2022

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
Date: / /

SPEECH NOTES: MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES STEPHEN DAWSON MLC

EVENT: ESPERANCE MEDAL PRESENTATIONS (PART OF FLEET CEREMONY)

DATE: FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022

TIME: 3:30PM

ADDRESS: ESPERANCE FORESHORE (WHALE TAIL)
JAMES STREET PRECINCT, THE ESPLANADE,
ESPERANCE

Speech Notes

- It's my privilege today to hand out long-service medals to three volunteers who have shown outstanding commitment and dedication.
- This is one of the favourite parts of my job.
- Volunteers like the ones honoured here today are the lifeblood of their organisations.
- I hope these medals go some way to expressing our gratitude for the countless hours you put in year after year.
- Our first recipient is **Will Carmody**, who is receiving a 40-year Bush Fire Brigade Long Service Medal.
- Will joined the Cascade Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in 1980. He went on to be captain of the brigade for 14 years.
- Will worked as a Fire Control Officer with the Shire of Esperance for 13 years before he was elected Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer last year.
- Will has played an integral role in battling many fires within the Shire of Esperance, including the 2019 Lake Hope bushfires.

- In 2017, Will won the Murray Lang Bush Fire Medal for his dedicated service in community engagement activities and the development of the Seasonal Workers training package. The package provides fire awareness training to seasonal workers prior to assisting farmers with harvest.
- Will continues to deliver the Seasonal Worker package prior to harvest.

Congratulations Will.

- Our second recipient is **Ashley Stewart**, who is receiving a 30-year Bush Fire Brigade Long Service Medal.
- Ash is a member of the Neridup Bush Fire Brigade, joining in 1990.
- He was captain of the brigade for 14 years.
- Ash was a Fire Control Officer with the Shire of Esperance for eight years before he served as the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer until 2016.
- He went on to become the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for five years.
- Ash's dedication to the role saw him attend a number of major fires as the Incident Controller for weeks at a time.
- Ash is now enjoying his time as a volunteer with the Neridup Bush Fire Brigade.

Congratulations Ash.

- Our third recipient is **Melissa Ammon**, who is receiving a 15-year Bush Fire Brigade Long Service Medal and National Medal.
- Mel joined the Esperance Emergency Support Unit in 2003 and also holds a non-operational role with the Quarry Road Bushfire Brigade.

- Mel also served as a member of the Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service from 2003 to 2014.
- Mel is employed by the Shire of Esperance as the Manager of Community Support.
- In the event of an emergency, you will find Mel helping with whatever is needed, ranging from public information to logistics, to delivering meals to volunteers on the fire ground.

Congratulations Mel.

**SPEECH NOTES: MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES STEPHEN
DAWSON MLC**

EVENT: ESPERANCE FLEET HANDOVER

DATE: FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022

TIME: 2:30PM

**ADDRESS: ESPERANCE FORESHORE (WHALE TAIL)
JAMES STREET PRECINCT, THE ESPLANADE,
ESPERANCE**

Acknowledgements:

- I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we stand – the Kepa Kurl Wudjari (Kep-pa Kurl Wood-jah-ree) people of the Nyungar (noon-gar) nation and the Ndadju (ng-gah-joo) people – and acknowledge their elders, past, present and emerging.
- Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM
- Chair of the Esperance Tjaltjraak (Dul-u-rak) Native Title Corporation Gail Reynolds-Adamson
- Member for the Agricultural Region the Hon. Shelley Payne MLC
- Shayne Flanagan representing the Hon. Colin de Grussa MLC and Peter Rundle MLA
- Shire of Esperance President Ian Mickel and CEO Shane Burge
- The 16 Shire of Esperance Bush Fire Brigade captains and members
- Volunteers
- Ladies and gentlemen

Speech Notes

- It's a pleasure to be here in Esperance to present the region's dedicated volunteers with state-of-the-art vehicles to help them in their emergency responses.
- Our hard-working firefighter brigades and SES units are on the front line keeping beautiful towns like Esperance and their communities safe.
- These vehicles, which were built in consultation with local crews, are world-class.
- I'm proud to say these appliances, worth more than \$2.1 million, were all built in Western Australia.
- It's part of a \$140 million commitment by the McGowan Government to ensure brigades have the most up-to-date vehicles.
- The new Esperance fleet is ground breaking in Western Australia.
- Pink Lake Bush Fire Brigade and Mt Beaumont Bush Fire Brigade are the first in the State to receive the cutting-edge 4.4 Broadacres.
- They offer an additional capacity of 2,000 litres of water and allow crews to better navigate through the harsh terrain of regional WA.
- The durability of these tankers will be lauded for many bushfire seasons to come.
- A 2019 coronial inquest into the 2015 Esperance bushfires made 12 recommendations, 10 of which were supported by the McGowan Government.
- I'm very pleased to honour another commitment today.
- DFES has also funded four light tanker appliances, which have now been handed over to the Shire of Esperance.

- Fire seasons are becoming extended and unpredictable, so it's critical that brigades have fit-for-purpose vehicles to keep their communities safe.
- We will continue working closely with local volunteers here in Esperance to protect this unique region.
- Thank you.

