



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 1: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 43 of the Annual Report - The Minister recently promised presumptive legislation for volunteer firefighters who contracted certain forms of cancer. Can you advise what stage this is at and the estimated timeframe on its introduction?

Answer:

The proposed legislation is currently being drafted. Introduction to the Parliament of the proposed legislation is a decision for the Government.

PUBLIC
10/12/14 *mf*

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 2: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 9 of the Annual Report – Given the growth of some regional centres can you advise your plans to establish career fire stations in the regions in the next 10 years?

Answer:

The DFES Strategic Asset Management Plan 2015/16 to 2024/25 identifies five new Career Fire and Rescue Service stations required in regional Western Australia in the next ten years. These are Busselton/Vasse, Karratha, Australind, South Hedland and Broome.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 3: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 27 of the Annual report –I note in this years ‘Are you bushfire ready’ ads that all uniforms had been obscured so it was not possible to differentiate between the various sections of fire fighting response effort. Can you advise whether it is the ultimately to badge/uniform all DFES volunteers the same thereby making it difficult to distinguish the separate arms?

Answer:

It is not the intention of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to badge and uniform all DFES volunteers the same. The “*Are you bushfire ready*” advertisement shows personnel in personal protective clothing (PPC). PPC is of the same style and type supplied to all fighting crews within DFES. Badging and printing on the rear of the PPC fire fighting tunic and on the helmets identifies the brigade’s name.

The Bush Fire Service PPC is supplied by Local Government Authorities.

Helmet colouring as stated in DFES Operational Doctrine1.3 - Dress and Grooming.

Career Fire and Rescue

Station Officers- Red

Firefighters – Yellow

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS), Volunteer Fire Service (VFS) and Volunteer Emergency Service (VES)

Captain – Lime/green

Firefighters - White

Bush Fire Service.

Chief and Deputy Chief – Red

Captain – Yellow /red strip

Lieutenant – Yellow

Firefighters - White

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 4: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 77, footnote (a) of the Annual Report - There were a number of redundancies last year, why?

Answer:

The State Government offered a targeted separation scheme last year to public sector entities. As a result of this, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services offered 43 severances to employees.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 5: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 80 of the Annual Report – ESL allocation - What proportion of this is allocated to frontline ESL and what proportion allocated to other activities (eg corporate operations)?

Answer:

The Emergency Services Levy income of \$273.087 million represents 80% of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' (DFES) total income of \$341.144 million for 2013/14. As all income streams are credited to the Department's operating account, DFES does not and cannot align funding source with expenditure outlay.

We refer to page 51 of the Annual Report of DFES' total cost of services of \$347.281 million for 2013/14; there was \$44.916 million in expenses for Prevention Services and \$302.365 million in expenses for Emergency Services.

Corporate and Operational Support Services of \$133.824 million are apportioned across Prevention Services and Emergency Services as they contribute to provision of these services.

Corporate and Operational Support Services include but are not limited to the following activities undertaken by DFES:

- DFES Executive;
- Training Services;
- Corporate Support (ICT, Human Resources, Business Services, Media);
- Asset Planning and Delivery;
- Operational Management and Regional Support;
- Capability and Planning Services;
- Built Environment; and
- Governance and Strategy.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 6: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 34 of the Annual Report - I note that DFES and the Bushfire CRC were conducting a Local resident survey following the fires in Stoneville and that that concluded some months ago. Is the report finished and when will you make it public?

Answer:

The report is being reviewed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Research Committee and will be made available to the public in early 2015.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 7: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 27 of the Annual Report – Last year's 'Are you bushfire ready' material was in English only. Has some of this material translated into other languages on the website? If not why not?

Answer:

The 'Are You Bushfire Ready' campaign materials have not been translated into other languages as this is a general awareness campaign. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) endeavours to tailor specific assistance where practicable to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities that are at risk.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 8: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 16 – Service 1 of the Annual Report - Can an estimate be provided of what percentage of the budget would be spent on response and what percentage on mitigation?

Answer:

We refer to page 51 of the Annual Report of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' total cost of services of \$347.281 million for 2013/14; there was \$44.916 million in expenses for Prevention Services (including mitigation) and \$302.365 million in expenses for Emergency Services (including response).

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 9: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to pages 10 and 22 of the Annual Report - Building certification planning building codes - With the new planning regulations and building code requirements for bushfire prone areas coming into force by May 2015, can you advise:-

- a) Will there be particular qualifications and or tertiary training required for those either within DFES/Planning signing off on these developments or those in the private sector providing certification to developers?*
- b) WA is one of the only states where those certifying commercial building plans under the Building Act for fire risk do not have to have a specific qualification and I ask why is this case?*
- c) Are there any plans to ensure certifiers have accreditation and appropriate tertiary qualifications?*
- d) Are there plans to charge a fee for the service thereby meaning more resources available thereby cutting current delays for sign offs?*

Answer:

- a) A Bushfire Accreditation Framework Steering Committee, led by the Department of Planning, has been established and is still to determining these requirements. There are a range of options being explored, including the opportunity for pre-determined levels of competency demonstrated by past work and experience or formal accreditation through the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Fire Agency Accreditation or tertiary studies.
- b) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) provides advice on building plans for fire service operational requirements. Plans are certified at the Local Government level by building surveyors. The qualifications of building surveyors are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce under the *Building Services (Registration) Regulations 2011*.
- c) For land use/development activities the draft criteria requires accreditation. The type and requirements for accreditation are still to be finalised.

In relation to commercial building, the Department of Commerce is responsible for the registration of building surveyors.

- d) At this point, there is no plan to charge fees for land use/development activities or for commercial building plans.

PUBLIC

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Friday, 7 November 2014

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Additional Question No 10: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked -

I refer to page 132 of the Annual report - can you provide figures of the number of applicants for firefighter positions from CALD backgrounds and the number ultimately recruited for the last lot of recruits?

Answer:

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) received 705 applications for firefighter positions in 2013/14 through 3 recruitment campaigns. Of the 705 applications, 47 (6.7 %) identified that they spoke a language other than English at home.

The recruitment process resulted in 78 positions being offered, from which 3 people (3.8%) identified as speaking a language other than English at home, or specifically identified as being from a Culturally or Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

DFES Comments – FOR MINISTER’S INFORMATION

Applicants for Firefighter are asked whether they speak a language other than English at home and this is the basis from which CALD figures are calculated for applicants.

PUBLIC