



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings - Questions Prior to Hearings

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC asked:

1. I refer to Budget Paper 3, Page 226 "Bushfire Mitigation on Crown Land Regional Townsites":

(a) What are the locations of these mitigation works;

The locations for bushfire mitigation works on Crown land within regional townsites are assessed on an annual basis. There are approximately 500 proposed townsites for 2017-18 located throughout regional Western Australia, excluding the Perth metropolitan area.

(b) How were the sites determined;

The sites are determined by Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) staff based in the regional areas using a risk assessment process. Sites assessed as extreme or very high bushfire risk will be prioritised to have treatment(s) applied.

(c) How will funding be distributed;

Funding will be distributed according to the identified risk in each location and the capacity for the mitigation works to be completed. Extreme and very high risks are given priority. The role of the State Bushfire Co-ordination Committee (a subcommittee of the State Emergency Management Committee) is to distribute Mitigation Activity Funds in WA via an open competitive grants process.

(d) Who will be responsible for completing the mitigation works; and

DFES has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for bushfire management on Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves. DFES' country regions or Bushfire Risk Management Branch will assign the completion of the mitigation works to a variety of entities including: DFES or local contractors.

(e) Why has no funding been allocated for 2020-21?

The criteria for bushfire mitigation on Crown land is determined by the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee. The funding distribution will be managed by the Office of Emergency Management through the Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF). The MAF includes a \$15 million allocation of funding from Royalties for Regions and is budgeted across four years. The current round commenced in 2016-17 and concludes 2019-2020.

Public¹/Internet

11/10/17

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Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Hon Colin Tincknell MLC asked:

1. I refer to Budget paper 2, volume 1, page 319 "Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - Salaries and Allowances Act 1975" and ask:

(a) Why did the amount jump from \$1,016,000 in 2015-16 to \$1,041,000 in 2016-17?

This is due to a variation in the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* Determination.

(b) Please provide a breakdown of all salaries by name that fall under the Salaries and allowances Act?

The salaries that fall under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* are as follows¹:

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner	\$304,151
Deputy Commissioner Operations	\$227,819
Deputy Commissioner Support and Capability	\$227,819

2. I refer to Budget paper 2, volume 1, page 320 "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency", bullet point 2 and ask:

(a) Can the Minister confirm that draft legislation was prepared for the last government?

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services commenced a review of the Emergency Services Act in November 2012. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services successfully completed the Regulatory Impact Assessment process overseen by the Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit. The Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit issued a Compliant Assessment Notice for the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement on 3 May 2015.

(b) Can the Minister estimate how many staff hours in total were spent on that legislation review process including consultations and internal meetings etc?

Three extensive stages of consultation were undertaken as part of the project. The total estimated internal hours utilised for the project to date is 23 000 hours.



¹ It should be noted total remuneration in SAT contracts refer to salary, vehicle and superannuation.