



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR JAMES MILLIGAN MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref: Output class 4: Emergency Services. Budget Outlook. JACS book D

Hearing Date: 18/07/2023

In relation to: Supporting ACTF&R staff and volunteers

(1) On p. 30 and 35 of book D, there are a number of line items which mention supporting ACTF&R and SES staff and volunteers totalling over \$6 million over 4 years, with most of it to be spent in the coming year.

- (a) What activities and initiatives do these line items support?
- (b) On p. 182 it talks about “supporting measures to improve staff development and wellbeing in the ESA”, is this money that has been set aside for the implementation of the Walker Review?
- (c) How much of this money is to be set aside for the implementation of the Walker Review to bring about the cultural change so needed and recommended in the report?
- (d) How much of this will be spent on the “executive” and can you define who that is exactly – for example is it the Chief fire officer?

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

- (1)(a) The recurrent funding of \$3.426 million over two years in the 2023-24 Budget (page 30 of Budget Book D) for the *Well-prepared emergency services – More support for ACT Fire & Rescue staff* initiative is to assist with recruiting and career development in ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R). The funding will also improve staff development and wellbeing.

The recurrent funding of \$2.390 million over four years in the 2023-24 Budget (page 30 of Budget Book D) for the *Well-prepared emergency services – Supporting the wellbeing of Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers* initiative is for additional support to improve the wellbeing and capabilities of emergency volunteers, including an online learning program, a program to support the physical and mental fitness of volunteers, and activities to acknowledge the support provided by families of volunteers.

All this information is provided on page 182 of the Budget Outlook.

The capital funding of \$0.289 million in the 2023-24 Budget (page 35 of Budget Book D) for the *Well-prepared emergency services – Supporting the wellbeing of Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers* initiative is for the installation of interactive screens to allow the ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT State Emergency Service the ability to view real time incident information to maintain situational awareness at the brigades and units. The funding also provides for the purchase of light-weight flood barriers to improve manual

handling standards regarding volunteer safety and the lifting of heavy objects within the workplace.

(1)(b) No.

(1)(c) See answer to question (1)(b).

(1)(d) It would not be possible to determine how much is spent on any individual under the funding initiatives detailed in part (1)(a). The aim of these initiatives is to benefit as many volunteers and staff as possible, from ACT Fire & Rescue, the ACT Rural Fire Service, and the ACT State Emergency Service. The initiatives are not specifically aimed at executives, however, they may benefit from them, either directly or indirectly.

The executives in the ACT Emergency Services Agency are:

- Commissioner
- Assistant Commissioner, Operations
- Assistant Commissioner, Corporate
- Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service
- Chief Officer, ACT Fire & Rescue
- Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service
- Chief Officer, ACT State Emergency Service
- Executive Branch Manager, Finance
- Executive Branch Manager, Strategy and Governance.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 29/7/2023

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA