

# MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND MINISTER FOR WATER UTILITIES

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## OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2007-08 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
<b>New South Wales Fire Brigades</b>			
Total Expenses .....	479.1	504.4	5.3
Capital Expenditure .....	44.1	40.1	-8.9
<b>Department of Rural Fire Service</b>			
Total Expenses .....	190.8	226.6	18.7
Capital Expenditure .....	9.5	8.9	-6.0
<b>State Emergency Service</b>			
Total Expenses .....	37.1	46.2	24.6
Capital Expenditure .....	4.5	5.3	17.7
<b>Total, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water Utilities</b>			
Total Expenses .....	<b>707.0</b>	<b>777.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Capital Expenditure .....	<b>58.1</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>-6.5</b>

In addition to the agencies listed above, the Minister is also supported by the Department of Water and Energy (Section 19) for the Water Utilities portfolio area.

## NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

The New South Wales Fire Brigades (NSWFB) provides emergency risk management services from 339 fire stations throughout New South Wales. The NSWFB promotes fire safety and manages fire emergencies for 90 per cent of the State's population and also protects all of the State from hazardous material incidents. The NSWFB is the largest provider of non-fire rescue services in New South Wales and is a key participant in planning State-wide counter-terrorism management. The NSW Fire Brigades' governing legislation is the *Fire Brigades Act 1989*.

## **RESULTS AND SERVICES**

The NSWFB aims to enhance community safety, quality of life and confidence, by minimising the impact of hazards and emergency incidents on the people, environment and economy of New South Wales. This is achieved by working towards the following results:

- ◆ New South Wales emergency risks are accurately assessed.
- ◆ Emergency incidents are prevented where possible.
- ◆ Communities are resilient and well-prepared for likely risks.
- ◆ People in New South Wales can easily access fast, reliable, effective and safe emergency response.
- ◆ Disruption of the community is reduced during emergency events.

Key services provided by the NSWFB to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ providing community risk management services in which firefighters use their expertise and experience to inspect premises and educate others in preventing or preparing for emergencies;
- ◆ providing emergency management services in which firefighters provide rapid, reliable help in emergencies - 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and
- ◆ ensuring operational preparedness including developing and testing plans and training for emergencies.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The NSWFB is funded 73.7 per cent by collections from insurance companies, 12.3 per cent by local government and 14 per cent by the State.

During 2006-07, new stations were opened at Hamlyn Terrace, Arncliffe and Bathurst.

By 30 June 2007, the NSWFB will have established 337 Community Fire Units crewed by 6,200 trained volunteers, including approximately 35 per cent women, who assist the fire services to protect homes from bushfire.

In 2006-07, additional funding was provided to:

- ◆ support the operational training program (\$1.7 million);
- ◆ support firefighter recruit training programs (\$1 million); and
- ◆ assist in the funding of retained firefighter costs (\$1.5 million).

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

The NSWFB continues to develop initiatives to achieve its vision of Excellence in Emergency Risk Management by maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

A \$72 million program to purchase state-of-the-art urban and rural fire engines, including \$7 million brought forward from 2007-08 to 2006-07, will continue over the next four years. Also, the NSWFB will receive \$43.7 million for information and communications technology over the same period.

Over the next four years, the NSWFB will receive \$16.9 million in capital funding for the purchase of firefighter safety and counter-terrorism equipment. This will significantly increase the NSWFB's capability for counter-terrorism and hazardous materials response.

Over the next four years, the expenditure of the NSWFB will be \$2.1 million recurrent and \$6.4 million capital to establish up to 400 additional Community Fire Units and to maintain and restock existing units.

## **2007-08 BUDGET**

### **Total Expenses**

Total expenses in 2007-08 are budgeted to be \$504.4 million, an increase of 5.3 per cent on the 2006-07 Budget. In 2007-08, the NSWFB will receive funding to:

- ◆ replace the Human Resources Reporting System (\$0.7 million);
- ◆ replace the Record Management System (\$0.5 million);
- ◆ assist in the support of community fire units (\$0.2 million); and
- ◆ improve the capability for firefighting and counter-terrorism (\$1.3 million).

## Capital Expenditure

In 2007-08, the NSWFB's capital works program is \$40.1 million. This will fund capital works projects including:

- ◆ \$11 million for continuation of an ongoing program to acquire and replace firefighting appliances;
- ◆ \$3.4 million for the Human Resources Reporting System;
- ◆ \$1 million for the Records Management System;
- ◆ \$5 million for fire station building renovations at Bellingen, Brunswick Heads, Camden, Eastwood, Forster, Greenacre, Huntingwood, Jerilderie, Kyogle, Lidcome, Miranda, Moama, Scarborough and Yamba;
- ◆ \$2.4 million for community fire units; and
- ◆ \$17.3 million for plant and equipment and information technology and communications equipment.

This capital expenditure will benefit both city and rural areas of New South Wales and will continue to address the need for additional facilities in growth areas.

## DEPARTMENT OF RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The Department of Rural Fire Service provides a community-based fire service for more than 95 per cent of the State. In doing so, the Service relies on nearly 70,000 volunteers to provide most of its operational and risk management capabilities.

The fire management and fire protection responsibilities of the Service arise from the *Rural Fires Act, 1997*.

The Service is also the host agency for the Office for Emergency Services. The Office is responsible for policy advice to the Minister, as well as providing administrative support to the State Emergency Management Committee, the State Rescue Board and the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.

## RESULTS AND SERVICES

In order to protect the community and our environment, the Department of Rural Fire Service manages the impact of fire and other emergencies by providing the highest standards of safety, training, community awareness, prevention and operational capability. In particular, the Service achieves this by working towards the following results:

- ◆ The community is provided with fire fighting services.
- ◆ The risk and cost of fire to the community is reduced.
- ◆ Fire fighters are safe when responding to emergency incidents.
- ◆ The management of interagency responses to fires and other emergencies is improved.

Key services provided by the Service to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ responding to emergency incidents to prevent injury and loss; and
- ◆ increasing community awareness of the risk posed by bushfires and their participation in minimising that risk.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure by the Service on bushfire fighting activities is financed by the Consolidated Fund (13 per cent), local government (13.3 per cent) and the insurance industry (73.7 per cent).

The State contribution towards fire fighting services is paid into the Rural Fire Fighting Fund along with the contributions from insurance companies and councils. In 2007-08 contributions provided to the Fund will total \$198.6 million, or \$30.5 million more than in 2006-07.

In 2006-07 funding was provided to:

- ◆ continue the tanker upgrade program for local brigades (\$34.1 million);
- ◆ fund maintenance grants to local councils (\$13.2 million);
- ◆ continue subsidies to councils for brigade stations (\$10 million); and
- ◆ make available funds to the Office for Emergency Services for grants under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (\$7.7 million) and the Bushfire Mitigation Program (\$2.7 million).

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department of Rural Fire Service is an integral part of a complex bushfire management infrastructure comprising volunteer rural fire brigades, local government councils, land management agencies and other fire authorities.

The Service continues to respond to a wide range of emerging priorities and issues generated through government and community expectations, developments in emergency sector technology as well as through the initiative and contribution of staff and volunteers. The response is encapsulated in the following areas:

- ◆ improving the safety of the community by mitigating the impact of fire through the implementation of programs associated with raising community fire awareness, regulating land use and the management of fuel levels;
- ◆ establishing planning, management and information systems to improve the allocation of resources; and
- ◆ recognising the importance of the contribution of our volunteers, by improving their safety and identifying programs that will accommodate the demands of lifestyles as well as facilitating their involvement in Service activities.

## 2007-08 BUDGET

### Total Expenses

Department of Rural Fire Service 2007-08 expenses are budgeted at \$226.6 million, an increase of 18.7 per cent compared to 2006-07. This increase reflects additional funding for bushfire mitigation works (\$10.4 million), the Commonwealth–State Government Bushfire Mitigation Program (\$4.6 million), the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (\$1.2 million) and expanding the Bushfire Tanker Replacement, and Brigade Stations and Fire Control Centre Upgrade Programs (\$18.6 million).

Additional funding of \$23.9 million over four years has been provided for the Bushfire Tanker Replacement Program and \$53.2 million over four years for the upgrading of Brigade Stations and Fire Control Centres. The Bushfire Tanker Program will allow the Service to replace and upgrade tankers.

This level of funding will allow the Rural Fire Service to:

- ◆ continue to purchase new and refurbished tankers for local brigades (\$34.5 million);

- ◆ fund maintenance grants to local brigades (\$14 million);
- ◆ continue subsidies to councils for new and upgraded brigade stations and control centres including the installation of rainwater tanks (\$15 million); and
- ◆ provide expenses and staffing to districts (\$42.4 million).

Also included is funding to the Office for Emergency Services for:

- ◆ the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (\$16.2 million), and
- ◆ the Bushfire Mitigation Program (\$4.6 million).

### **Capital Expenditure**

The Department of Rural Fire Service's \$8.9 million 2007-08 asset capital expenditure program includes provision for the following projects:

- ◆ acquisition of motor vehicles (\$6.5 million); and
- ◆ purchase of computers and other small items of equipment (\$2.4 million).

## **STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE**

The State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency management response and rescue agency, established by the *State Emergency Service Act 1989*.

The Service is the nominated combat agency responsible for floods and storms under the State Disaster Plan. The Service also has responsibility for 90 accredited rescue units and assisting the NSW Police Force, New South Wales Fire Brigades, Department of Rural Fire Service, NSW Ambulance Service and the State Emergency Operations Controller.

The Service's vision is "safe communities supported by motivated, well trained, managed and equipped volunteers". The Service delivers this vision for New South Wales through 10,000 dedicated volunteers across 228 units, supported by 17 regional headquarters and the State headquarters.

## **RESULTS AND SERVICES**

The Service aims to provide a safer and more resilient community by carrying out emergency management functions relating to prevention, preparation, response and recovery. The key results set by the Service are:

- ◆ Emergency service support and assistance to the community are effective before, during and after floods, storms and other emergency events.
- ◆ SES volunteers are prepared, trained and well-equipped to be operationally ready to deal with emergency operations.
- ◆ Communities are educated and prepared to deal with emergency situations.
- ◆ Emergency risk management processes are effective in dealing with continuing risk.

Key services provided by the Service to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ flood emergency management;
- ◆ storm emergency management;
- ◆ rescue services including motor vehicle accidents, land search and vertical rescue;
- ◆ welfare support during emergencies;
- ◆ the conduct of education campaigns (residents, businesses and schools) targeting communities to be better prepared, particularly those in flood prone areas; and
- ◆ advice to councils and other agencies on the suitability of development, especially on flood plains.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The SES has received significant funding increases in recent financial years. This additional funding has enabled the SES to address major priorities in the areas of rescue equipment, protective clothing for all volunteers, nationally recognised competency based training, maintenance of communication equipment, new regional headquarters, additional staff at both state and regional level, and a 24x7 Operations Communication Centre to ensure that calls for help are processed and dispatched in a more timely and efficient manner.

In addition, the Service has delivered a number of computerised projects including the “Request for Assistance” system providing operational management systems for the Operations Communications Centre and regional and unit headquarters.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

The Service is employing a number of strategies to deliver its results and services. These include:

- ◆ continued development of flood intelligence capabilities;
- ◆ delivery of community education at the local level through the facilitation of trained volunteer community education officers;
- ◆ developing telecommunication capabilities to deal with changing telecommunication systems;
- ◆ provision of a governance framework, establishment of standard operating environments for software and hardware and the implementation of a information security management framework;
- ◆ provision of a robust, secure and redundant Wide Area Network; and
- ◆ development and implementation of information services and knowledge management through SES On-Line.

## **2007-08 BUDGET**

### **Total Expenses**

The State Emergency Service’s total expenses are budgeted at \$46.2 million in 2007-08, an increase of 24.6 per cent compared to 2006–07. The increase is mainly due to the organisational capability initiative and increases in depreciation due to asset revaluations in prior years.

In 2007-08, the Service will fund the following:

- ◆ an additional \$0.6 million for the operational expenses of the communication systems;
- ◆ an additional \$1.7 million for the operational expenses information and management technology systems; and
- ◆ an additional \$1.1 million to improve SES organisational capability.

## **Capital Expenditure**

The State Emergency Service capital program is estimated at \$5.3 million in 2007-08.

Capital funding will continue in the following areas:

- ◆ \$1.8 million for communication and paging systems;
- ◆ \$1.4 million for rescue equipment;
- ◆ \$0.3 million to replace motorised hydraulic cutters for road crash rescue units;
- ◆ an additional \$1.4 million for the construction of a warehouse facility for the storage of storm damage mitigation equipment; and
- ◆ an additional \$0.4 million to provide emergency power at State headquarters.